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SONIC™

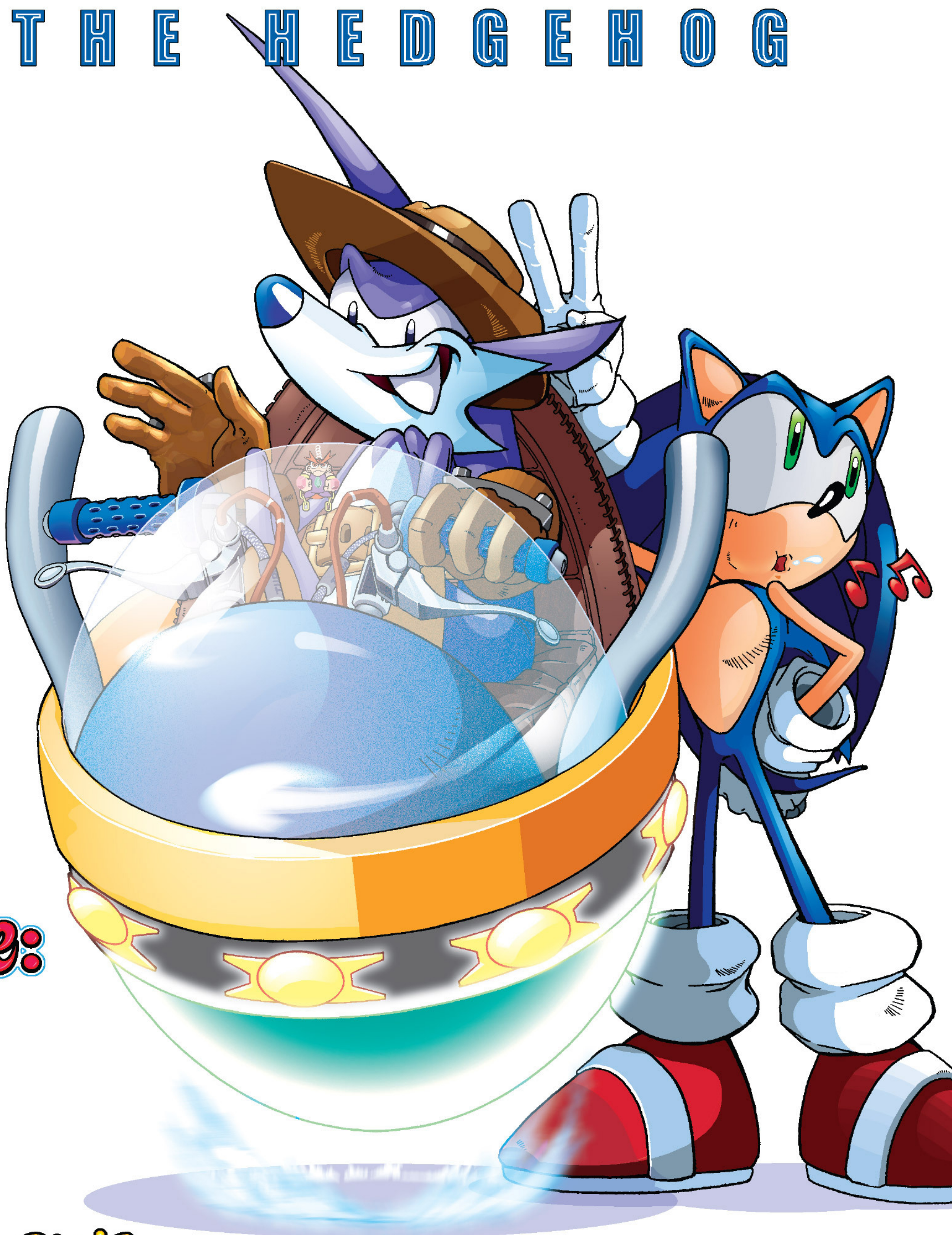


THE HEDGEHOG

NACK
IS BACK TO
INTERRUPT
SONIC'S
LOVE
TRIANGLE
TROUBLE
IN THREE,
TWO—

**"Heart
Held
Hostage:**

PART ONE™

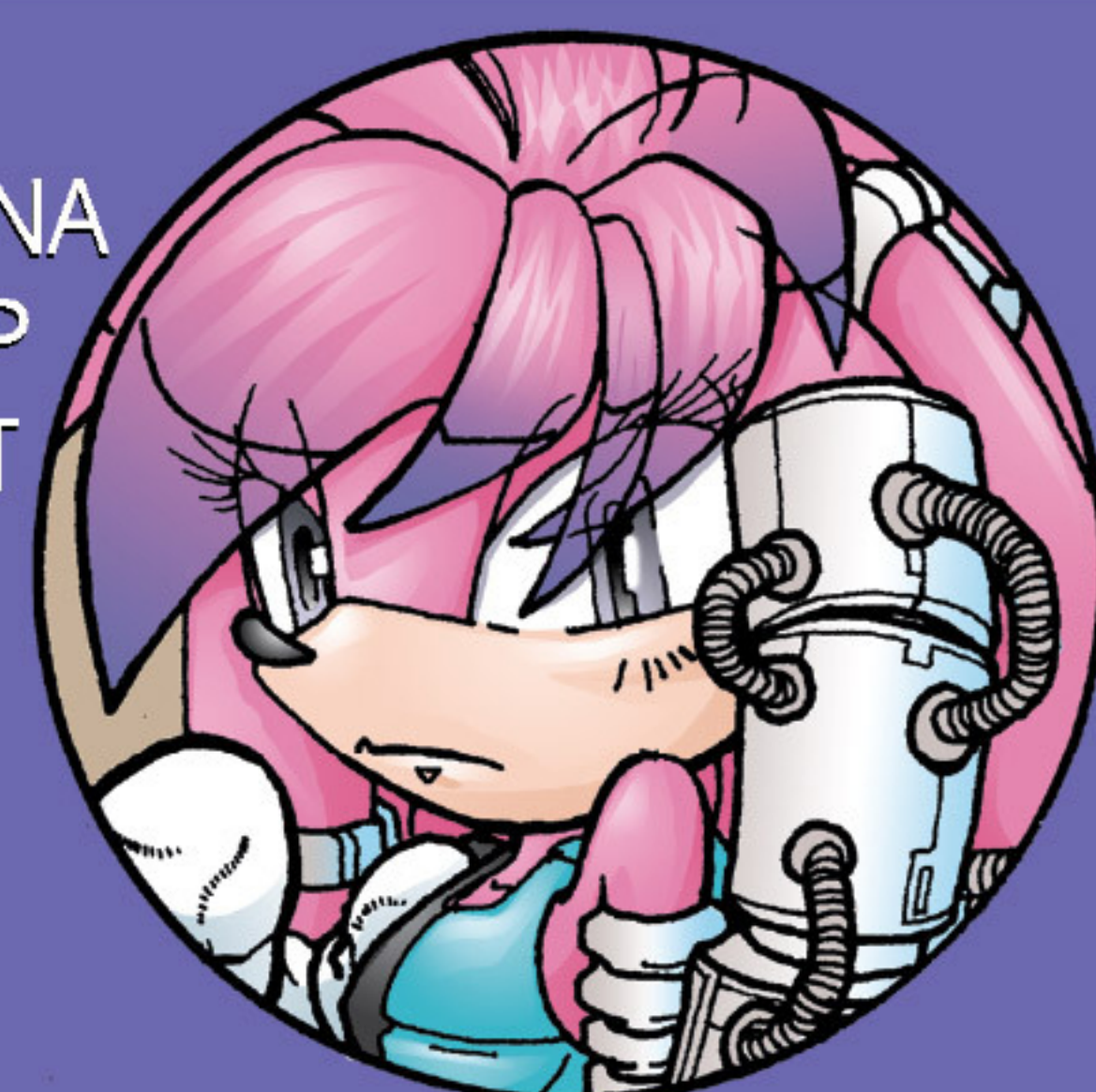


PLUS:

WHAT DOES
AN ECHIDNA
DO WITH HIMSELF
"AFTERLIFE" IS
OVER? FIND
OUT IN OUR
LATEST
KNUCKLES'
CHAPTER



HOW DO A
CYBERNETIC ECHIDNA
AND A HIP-HOP
CROC PUT PAST
DIFFERENCES
BEHIND THEM—
JULIE-SU AND
VECTOR HAVE
THE ANSWER



SPAZ
KIBEIRO



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KARL BOLLERS & J. AXER
PRESENT

SONIC

THE HEDGEHOG

IN

"Heart Held Hostage"

part
one

CONOR TOMAS
INKER

JASON JENSEN
COLORIST

JEFF POWELL
LETTERER

J.F. GABRIE
EDITOR

VICTOR GORELICK
MANAGING EDITOR

RICHARD GOLDWATER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

SPRINGTIME IN
KNOTHOLE...

WRONG
NOTE, SON.

SORRY,
DAD!

GEE, MISTER
HEDGEHOG, IF YOU
KNOW SO MUCH
ABOUT MUSICAL
INSTRUMENTS...

...WHY
DON'T YOU
PLAY 'EM
ANYMORE?

THESE ROBOTICIZED
FINGERS AREN'T NEARLY NIMBLE
ENOUGH TO PLUCK THOSE GUITAR
STRINGS, TAILS...

...BUT I CAN
STILL TEACH MY
BOY HOW!





AND, AS THE BLUE BLUR
CONTINUES TO PLAY VARIOUS
CHORDS...

... MANY
GATHER...

... AND A CROWD SOON
FORMS AROUND THE
HEDGEHOG FAMILY HUT.

AMONG
WHICH ARE...



... SOME VERY
FAMILIAR FACES.



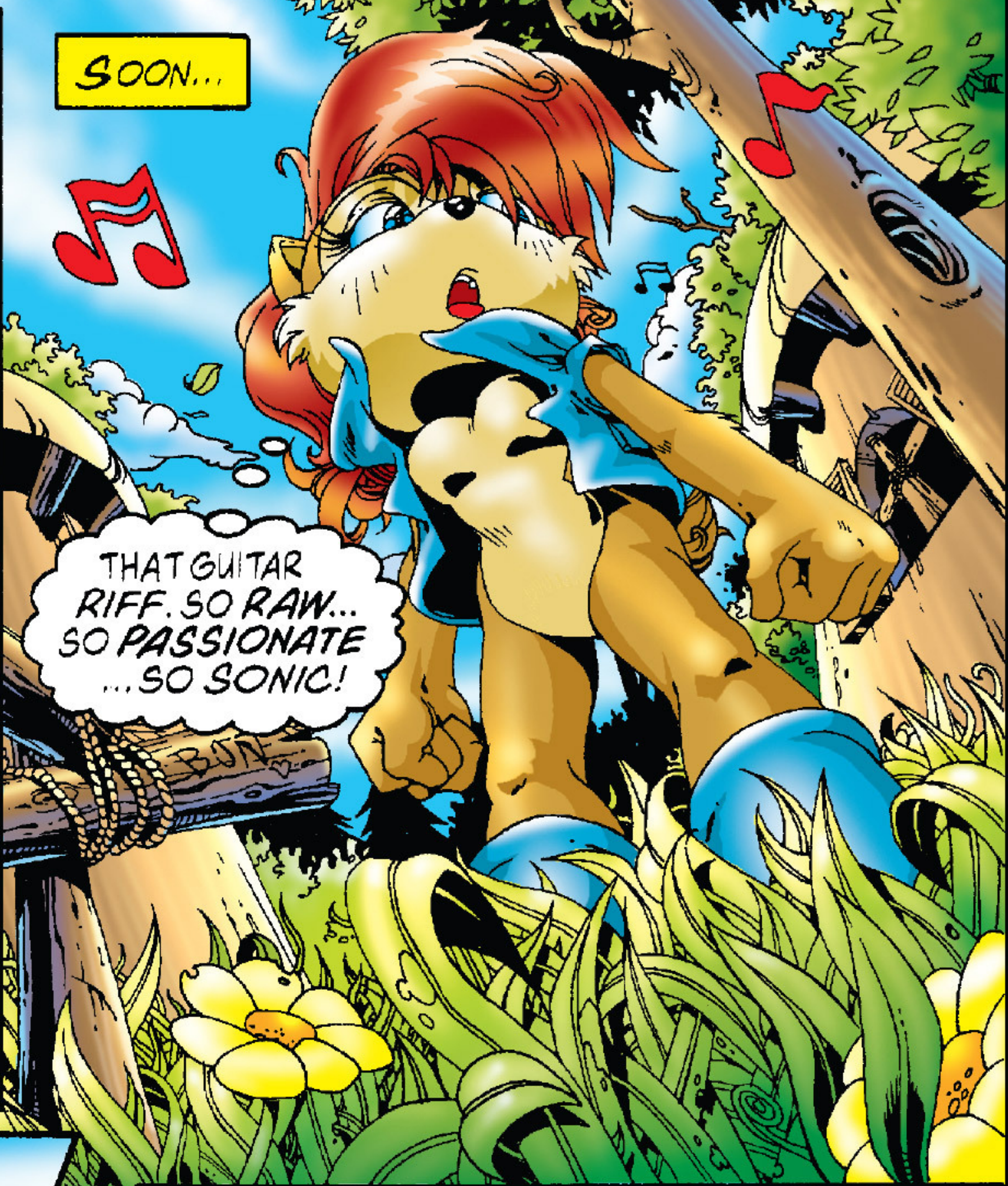
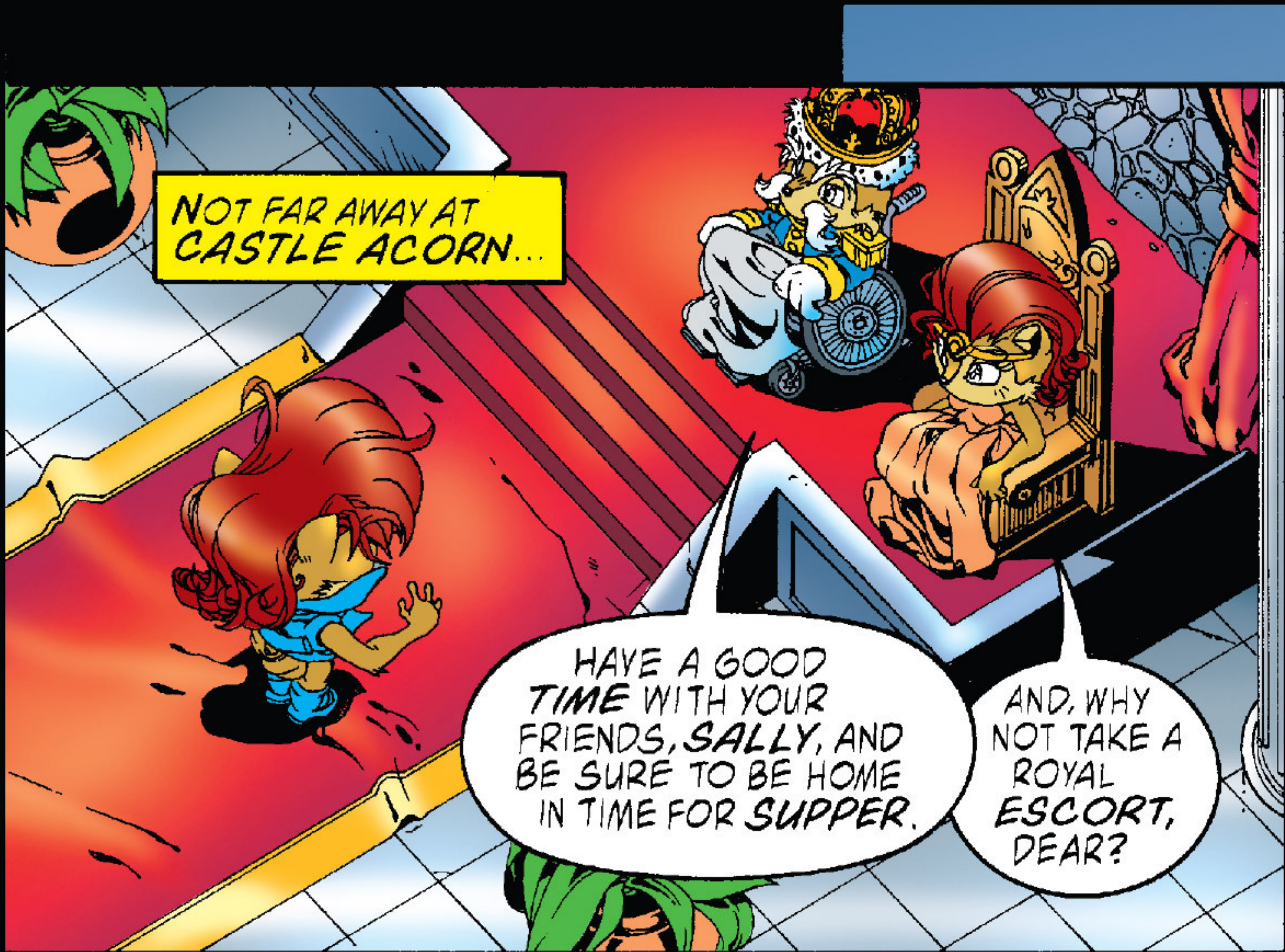
HE'S A
NATURAL BORN
TALENT!

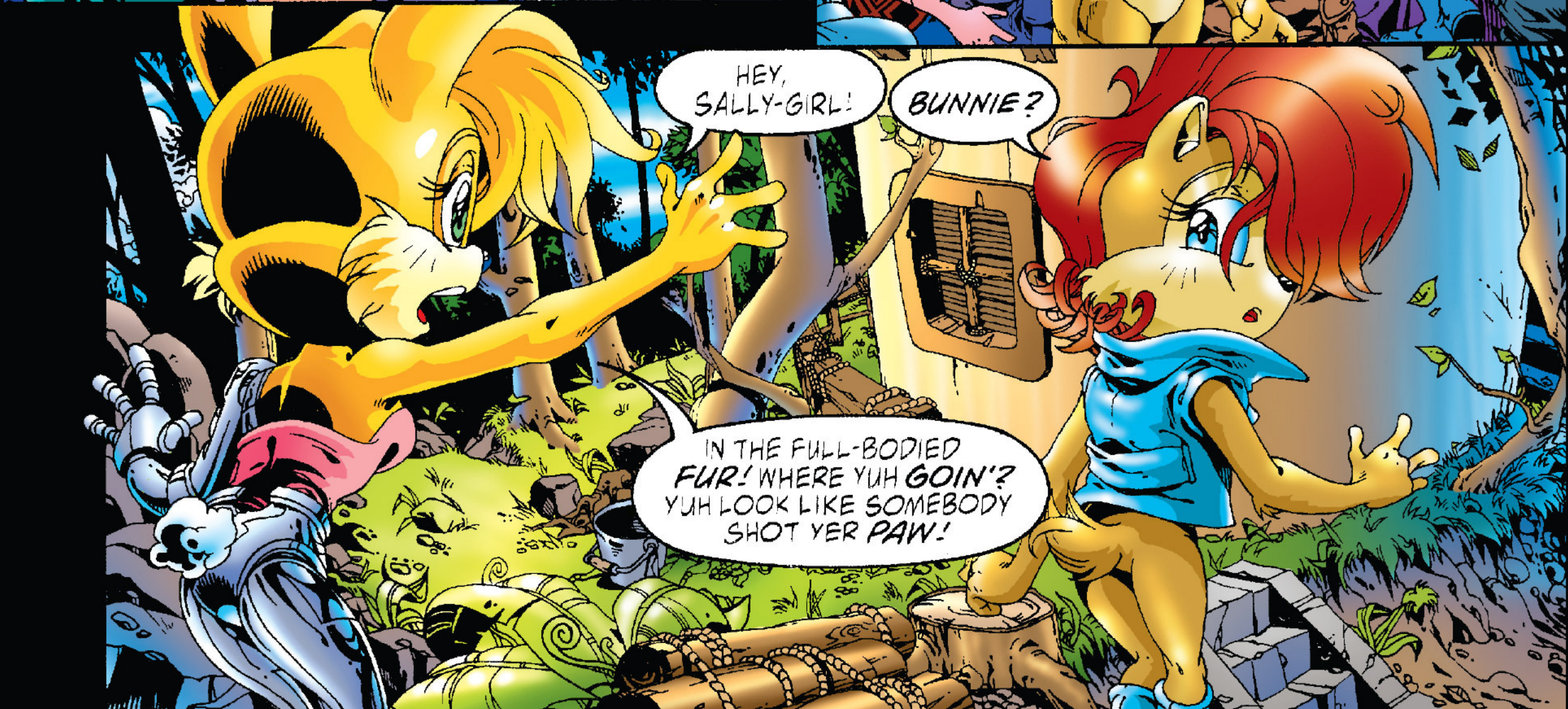
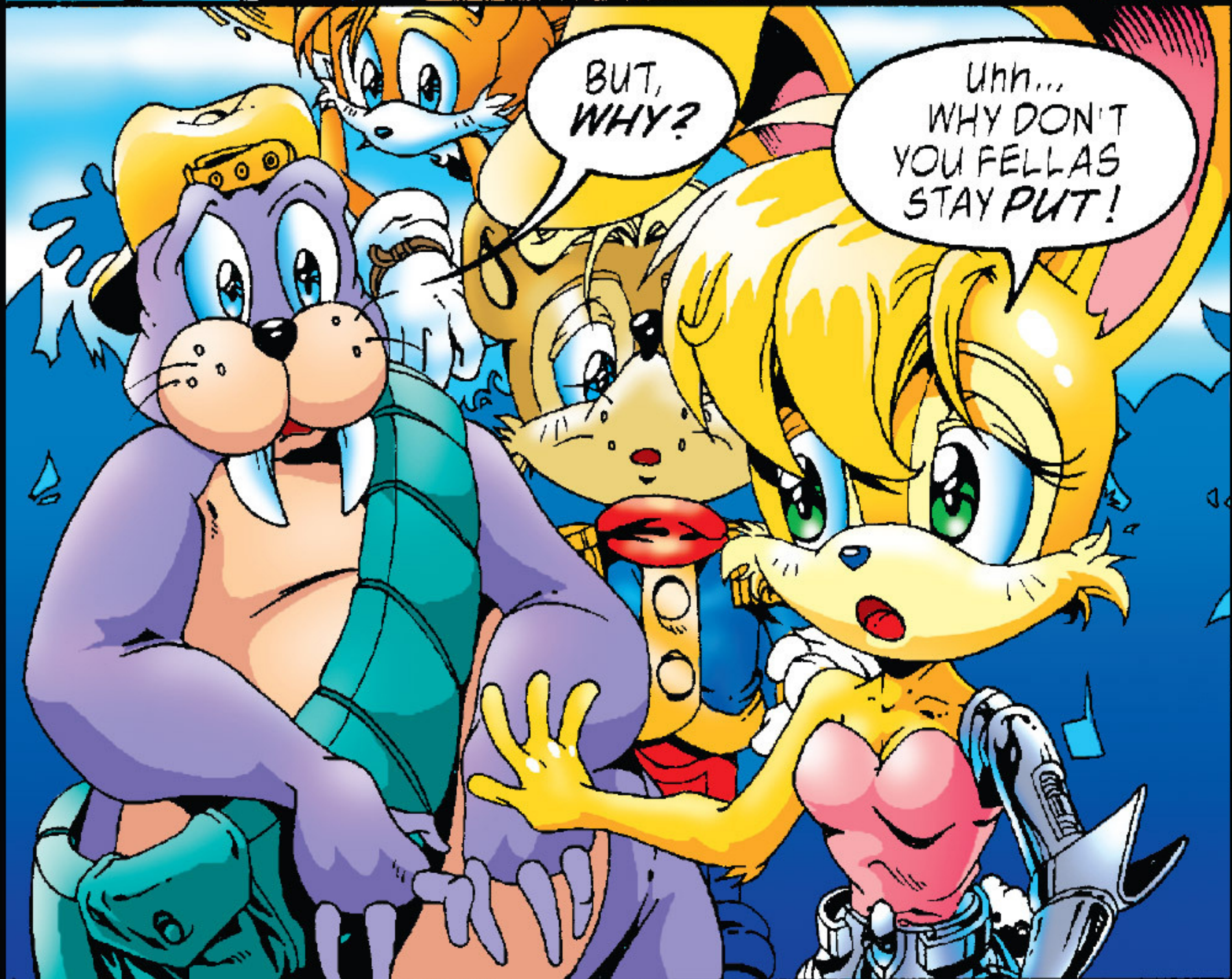
SO SUAVE...
SO SKILLED...
SO...

...SO
SONIC!



WELL,
MINA GIRL,
HERE GOES
NOTHING!

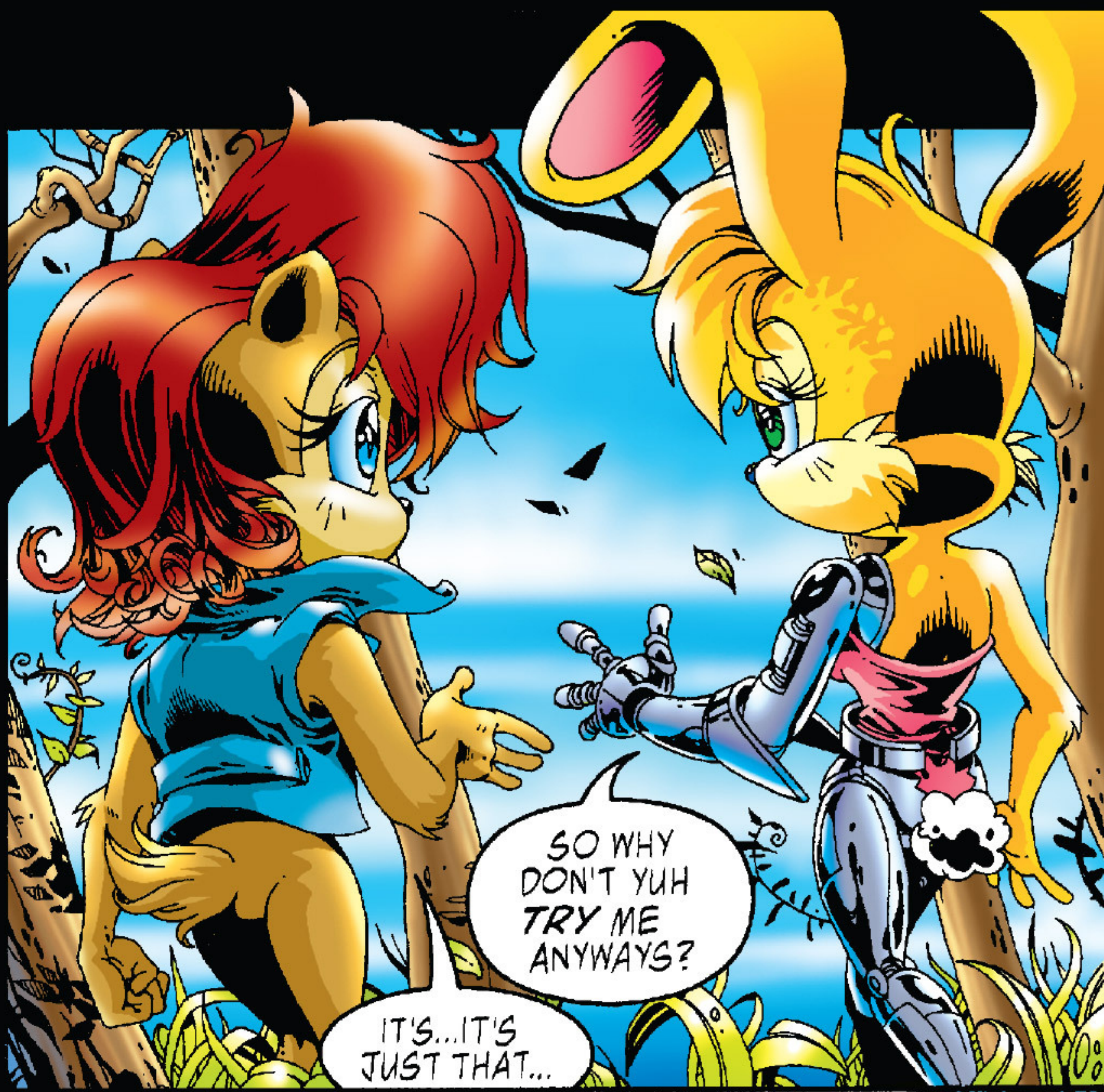






SERIOUSLY, GIRLFRIEND, IT'S *ME!* AH RECKON SUMTHIN'S BOTHERIN' YUH.

IT'S NOTHING. IT'S SILLY, ACTUALLY.



SO WHY DON'T YUH TRY ME ANYWAYS?

IT'S...IT'S JUST THAT...



...WHEN I WAS YOUNGER, I ALWAYS ASSUMED THAT SONIC AND I WERE SOUL MATES...

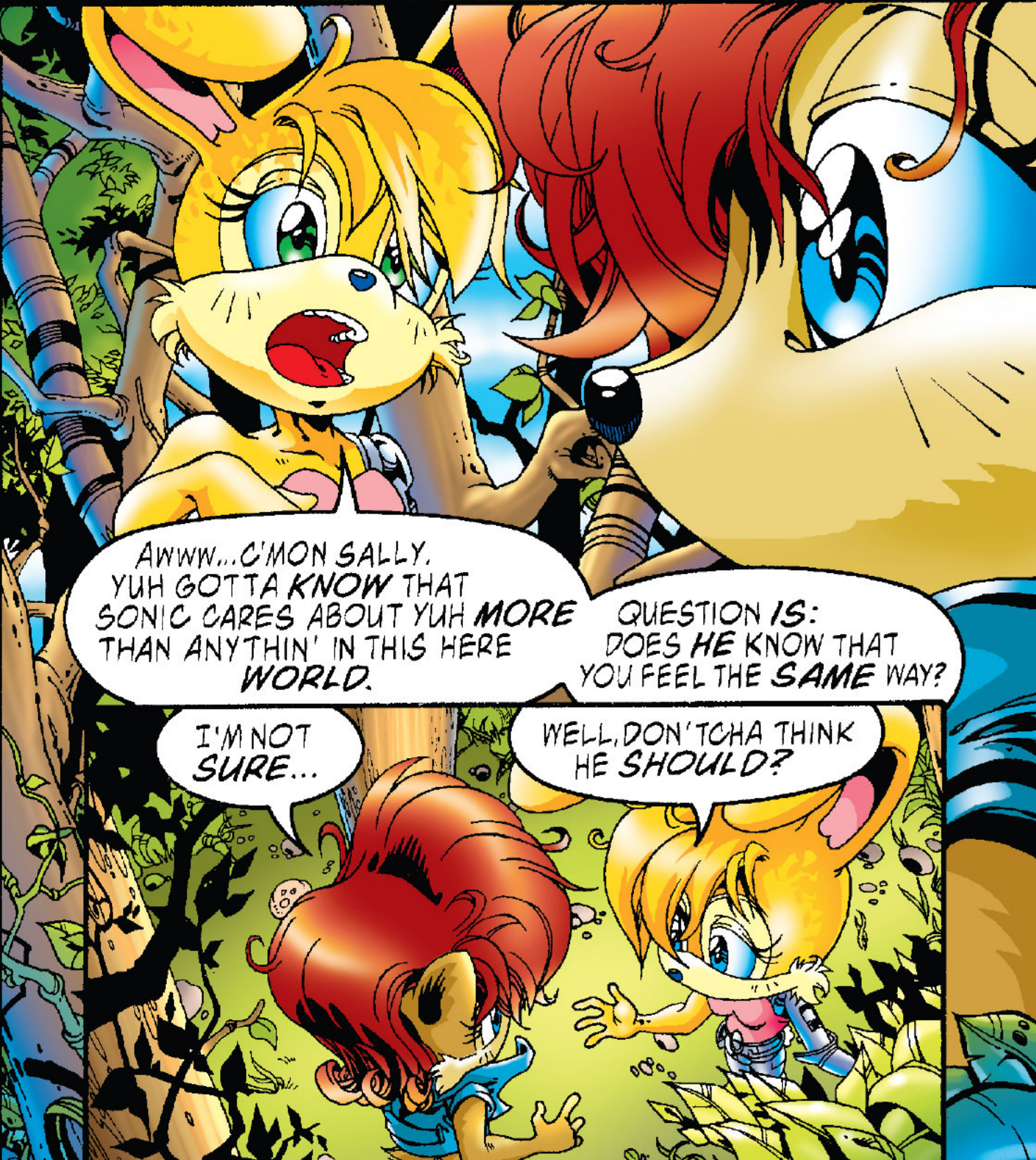
...THAT SOMEDAY WE'D EVENTUALLY BE TOGETHER, Y'KNOW?

WELL, LATELY I'M NOT SO SURE.



HIS FRIENDSHIP WITH MINA'S GOTCHA MORE NERVOUS THAN A LONG-TAILED CAT IN A ROOM FULL O' ROCKIN' CHAIRS, HUH?

THEY BOTH HAVE SPEED, ROBOTICIZED PARENTS, AND NOW THEY CAN ALSO MAKE BEAUTIFUL MUSIC TOGETHER.

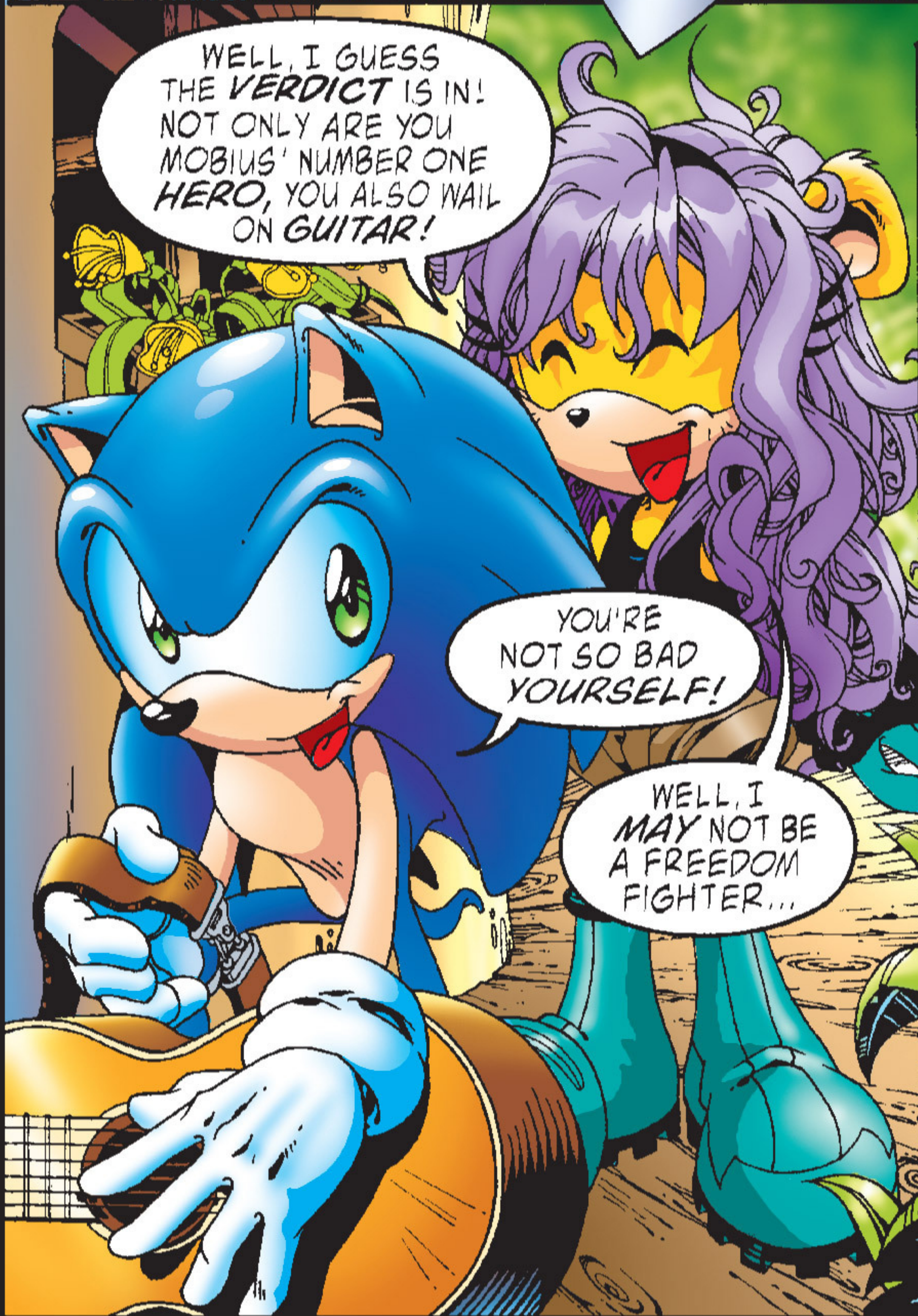
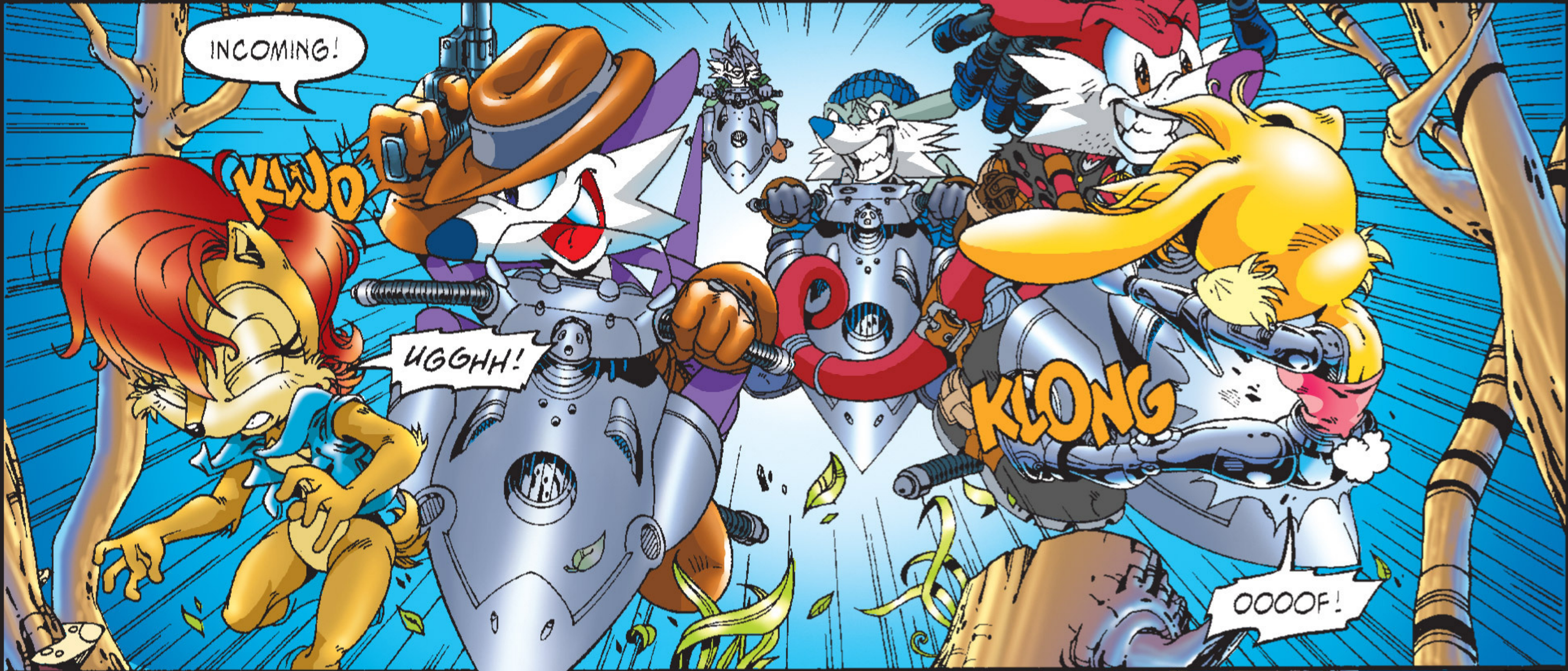
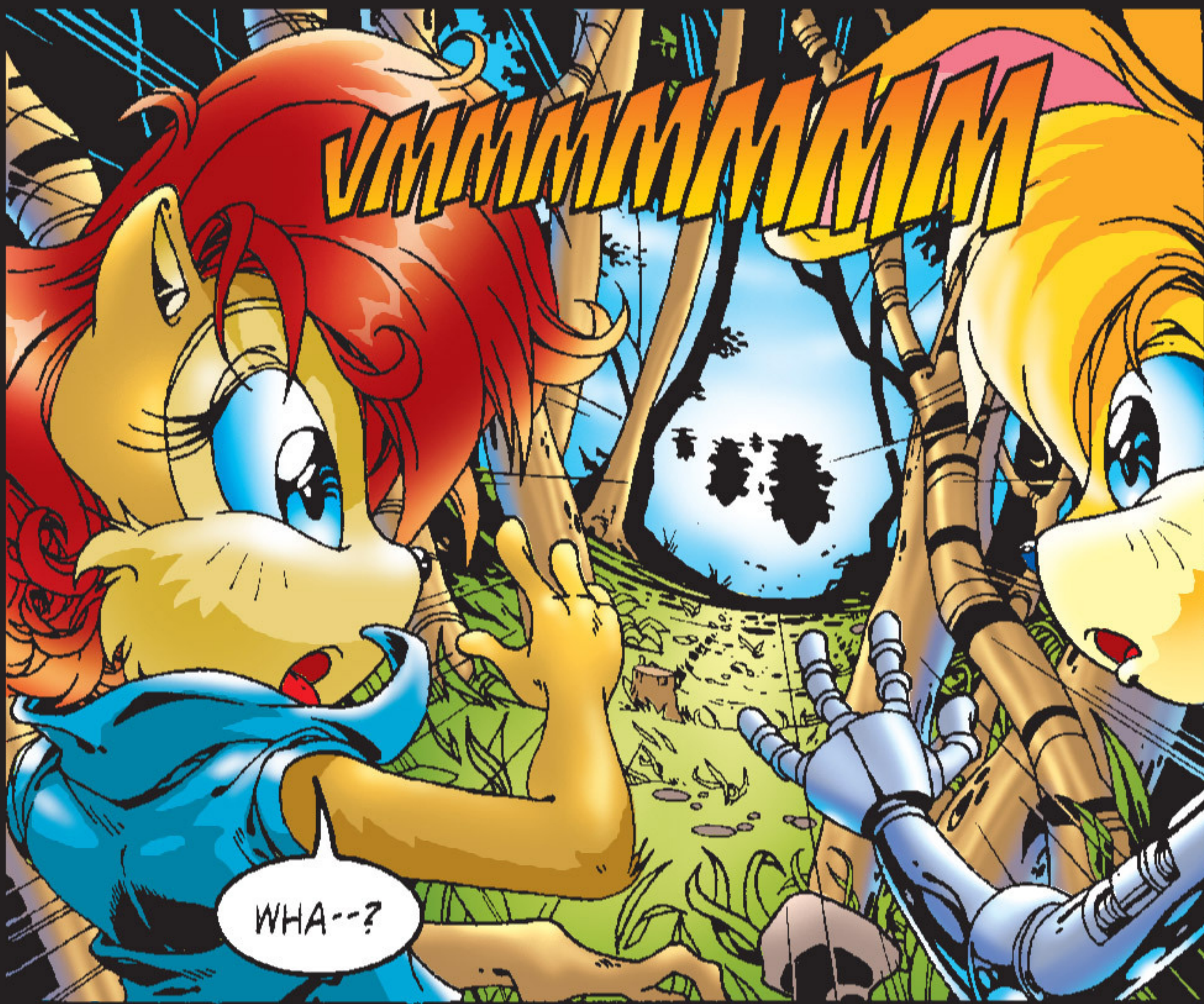


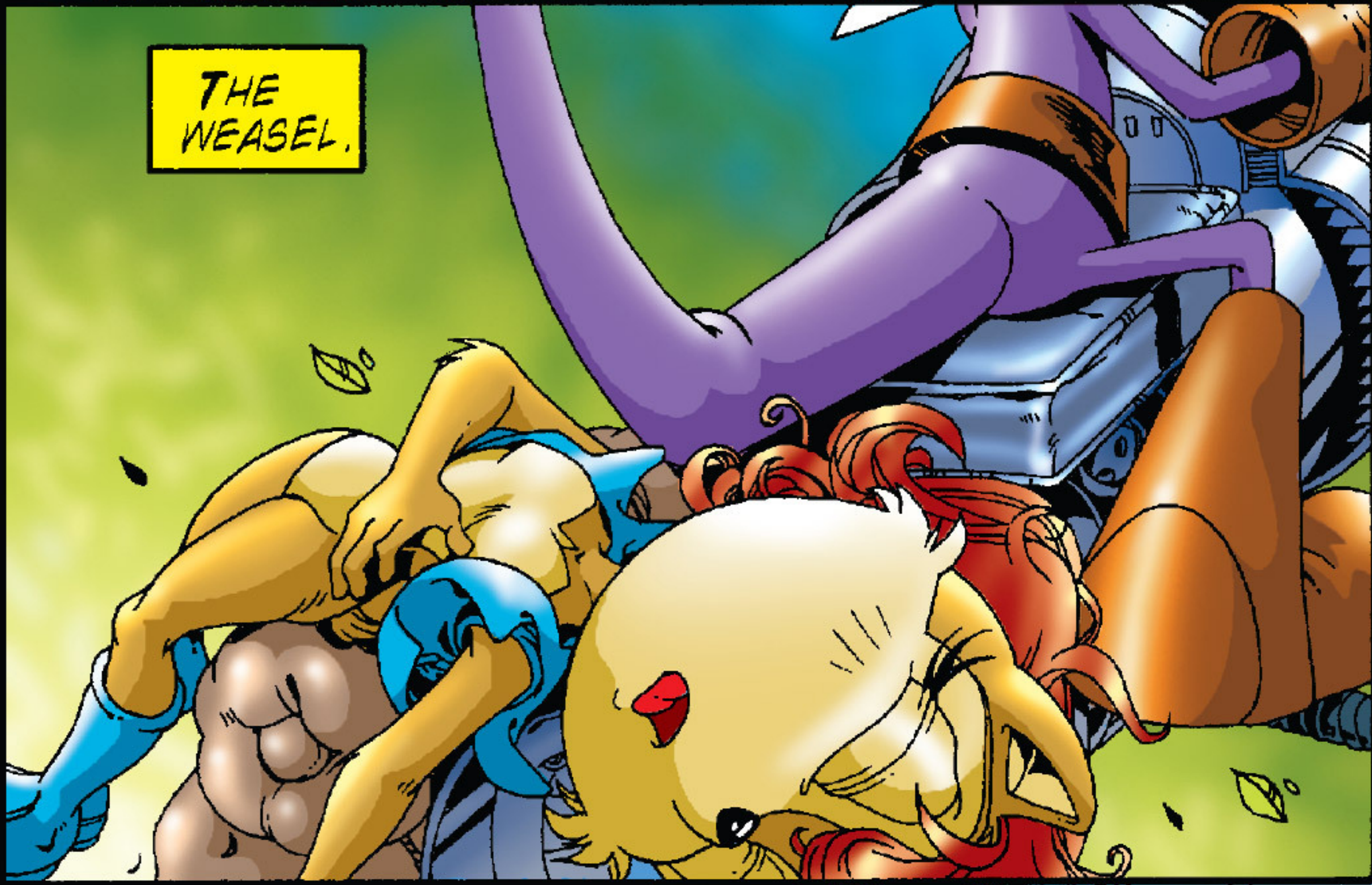
AWWW...C'MON SALLY. YUH GOTTA KNOW THAT SONIC CARES ABOUT YUH MORE THAN ANYTHIN' IN THIS HERE WORLD.

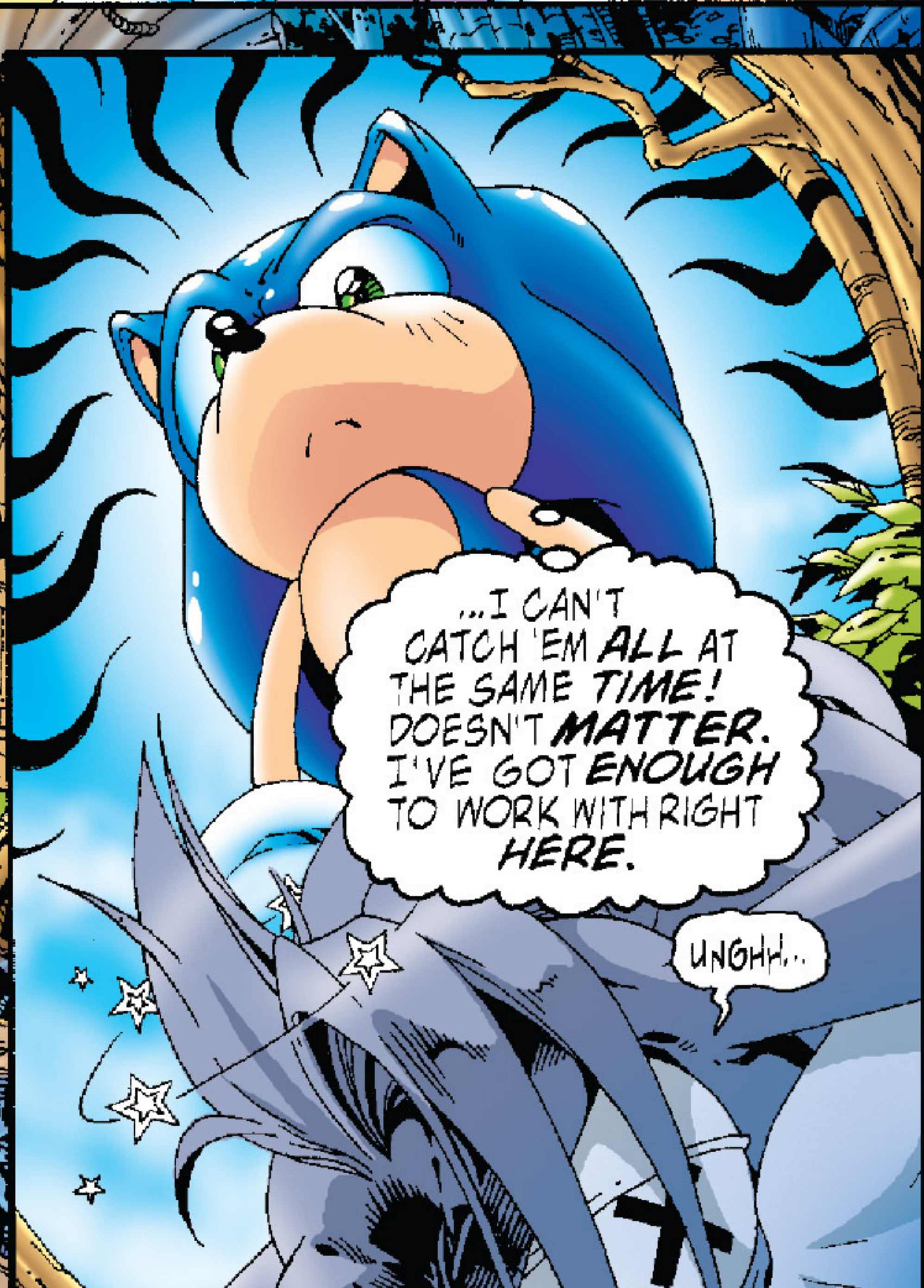
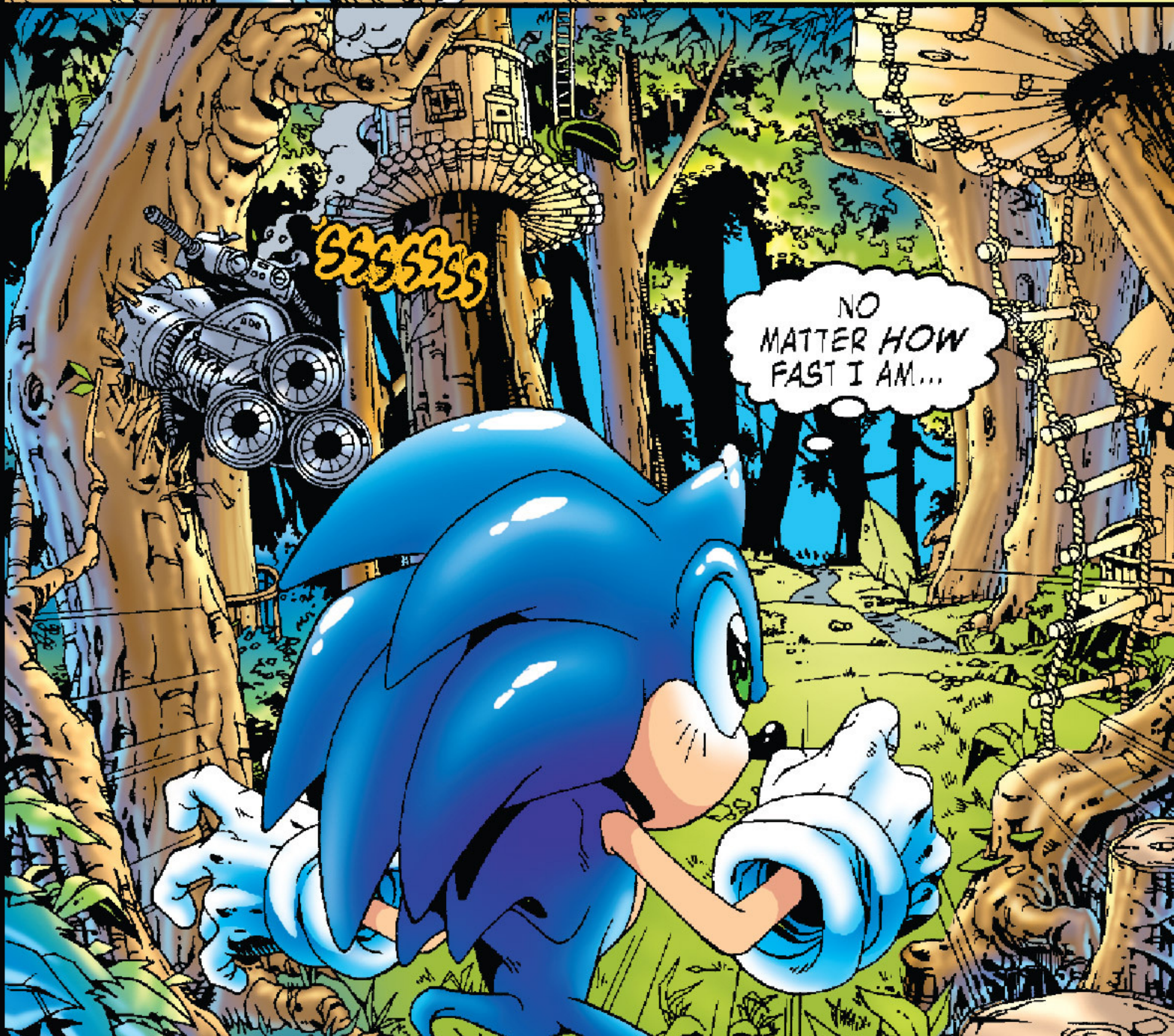
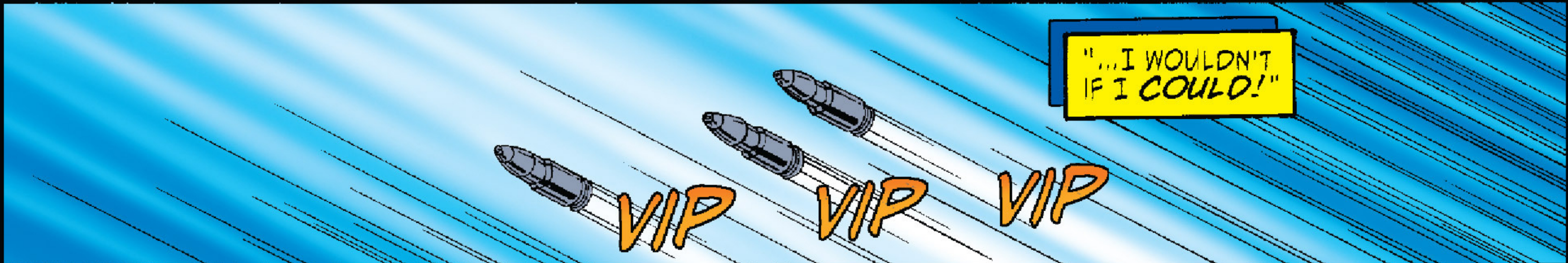
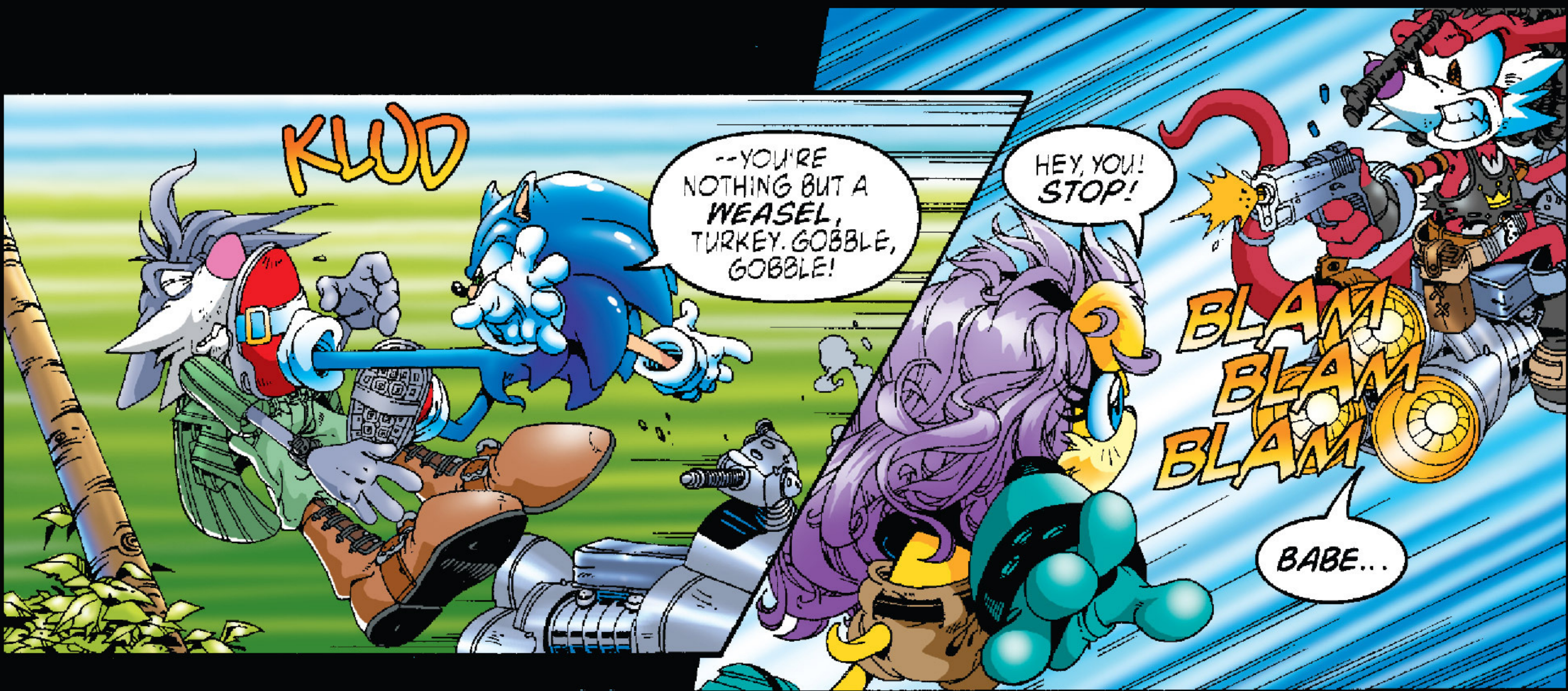
QUESTION IS: DOES HE KNOW THAT YOU FEEL THE SAME WAY?

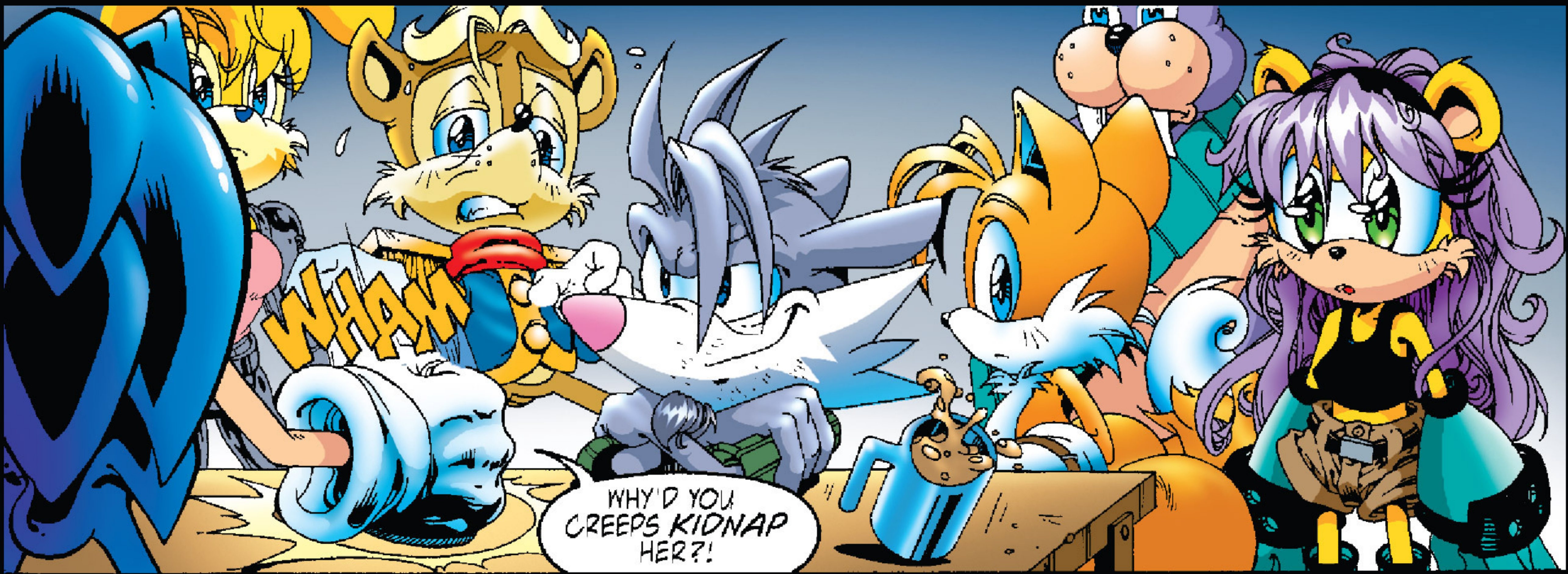
I'M NOT SURE...

WELL, DON'TCHA THINK HE SHOULD?

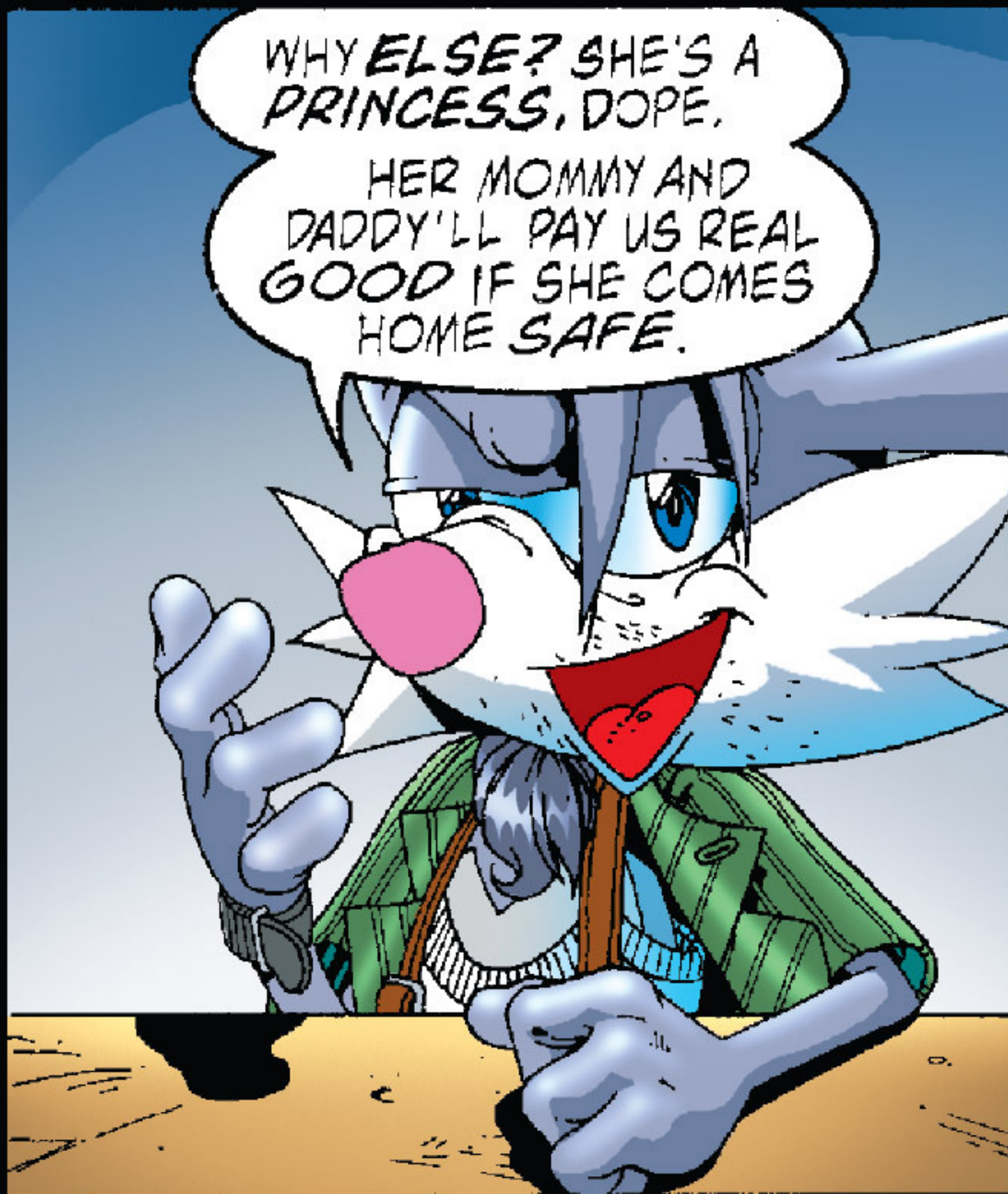








WHY'D YOU CREEPS KIDNAP HER?!



WHY ELSE? SHE'S A PRINCESS, DOPE. HER MOMMY AND DADDY'LL PAY US REAL GOOD IF SHE COMES HOME SAFE.



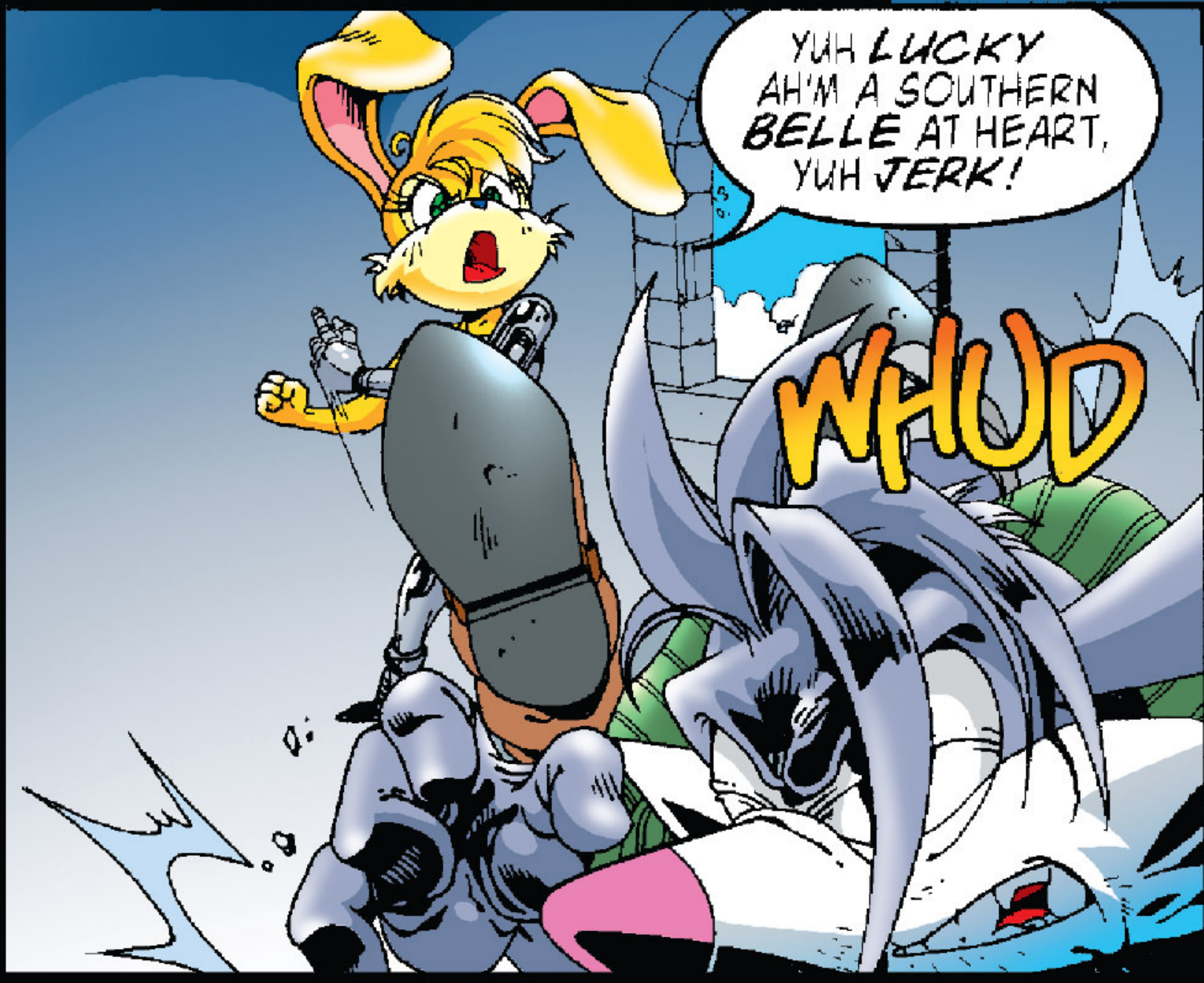
REAL WELL.
HUH?

YUH MEANT TO SAY "REAL WELL."



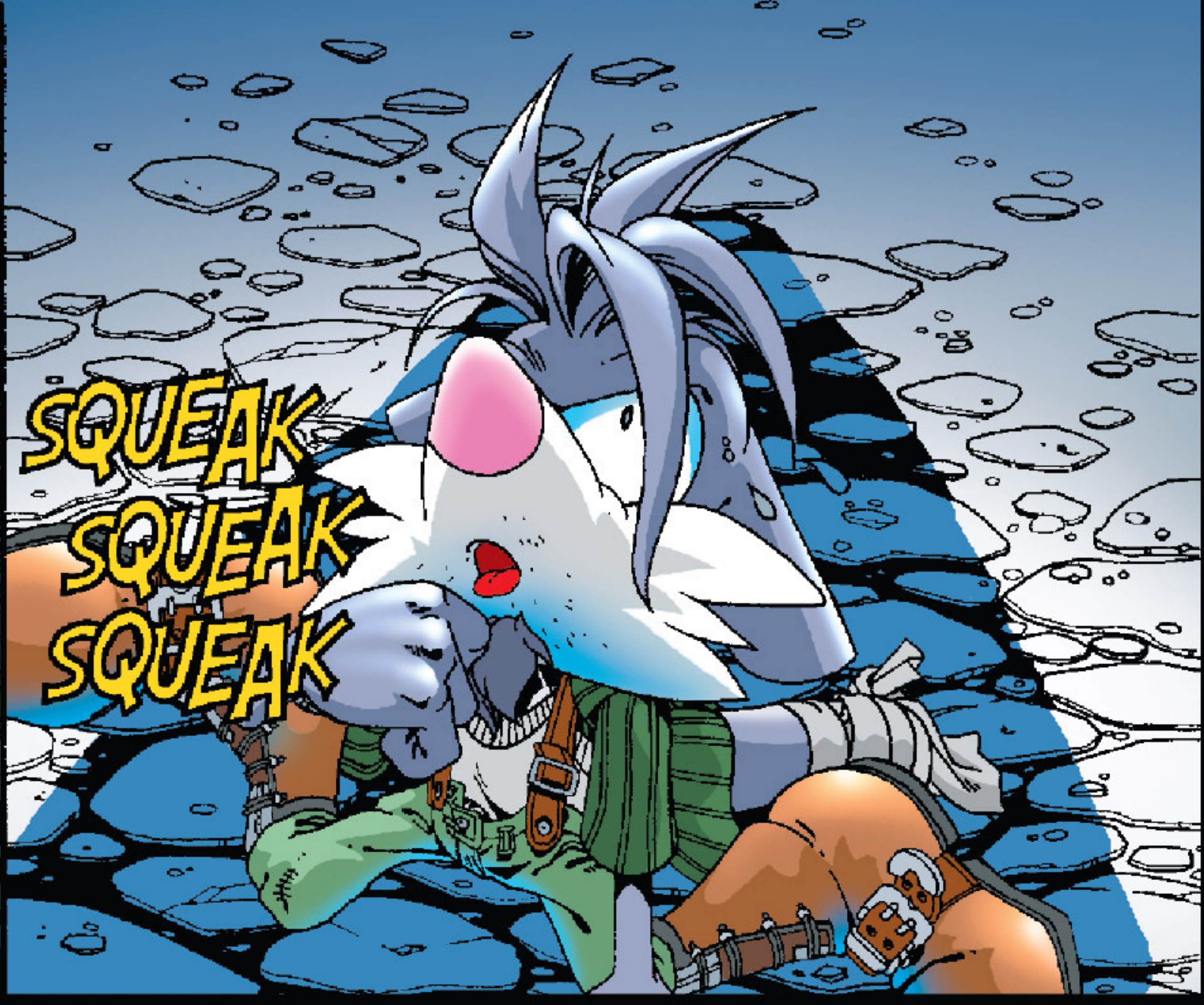
OOH. OOH. MISS BUNNIE RABBOT, PLEASE DON'T DROP ME FROM THIS WINDOW. I AM OH SO SCARED.

Yaaawnn-
CAN I GO NOW?

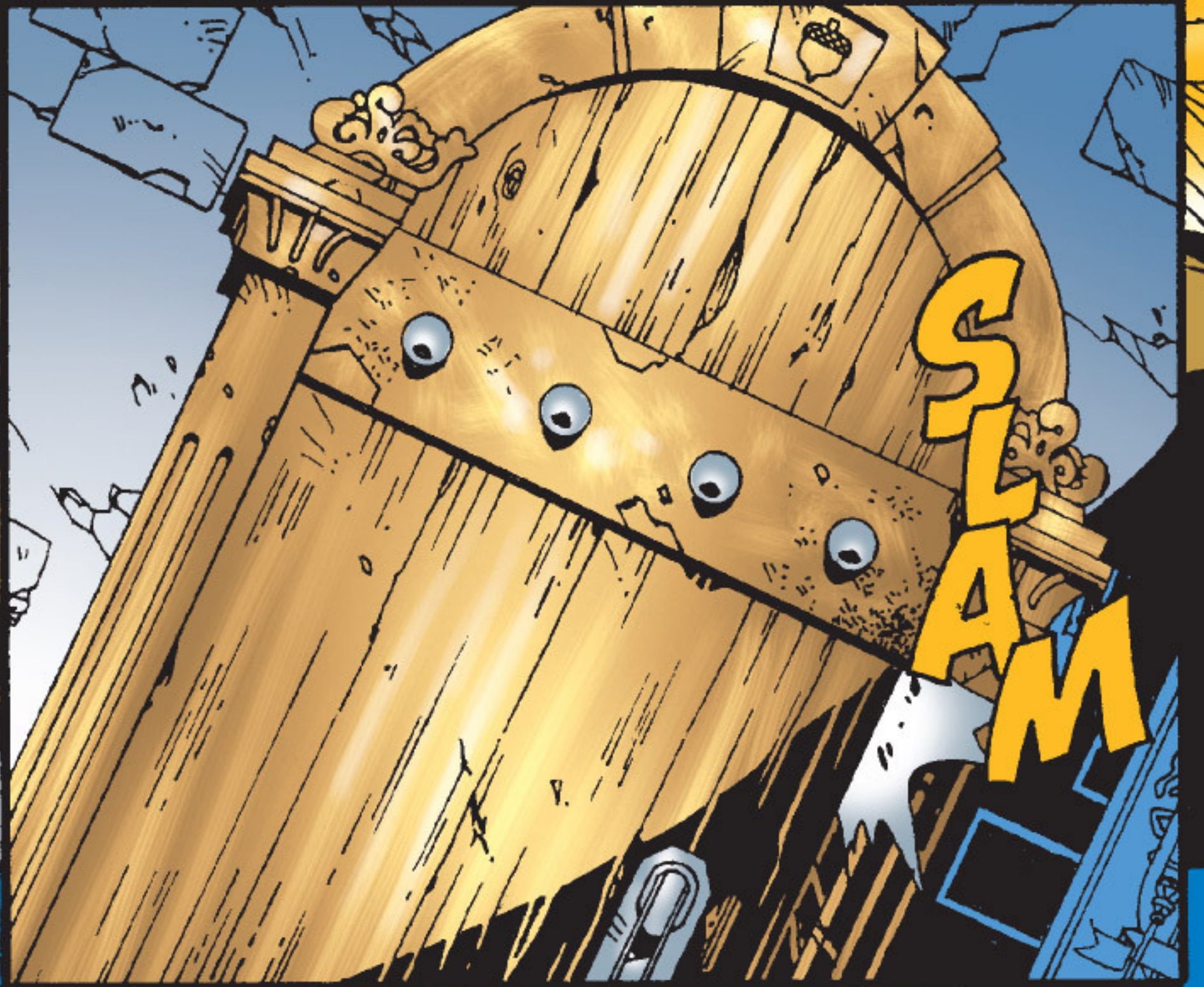
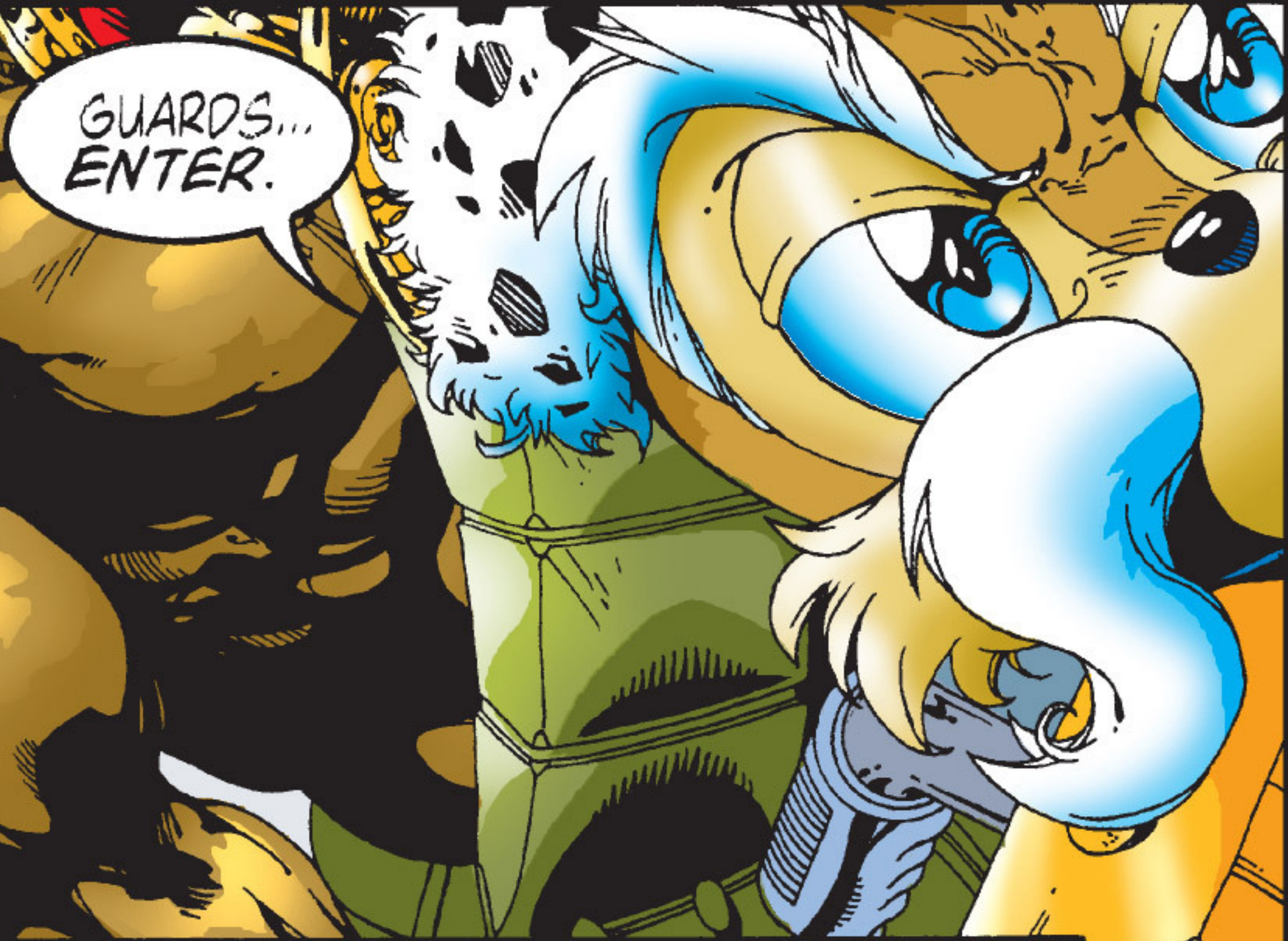
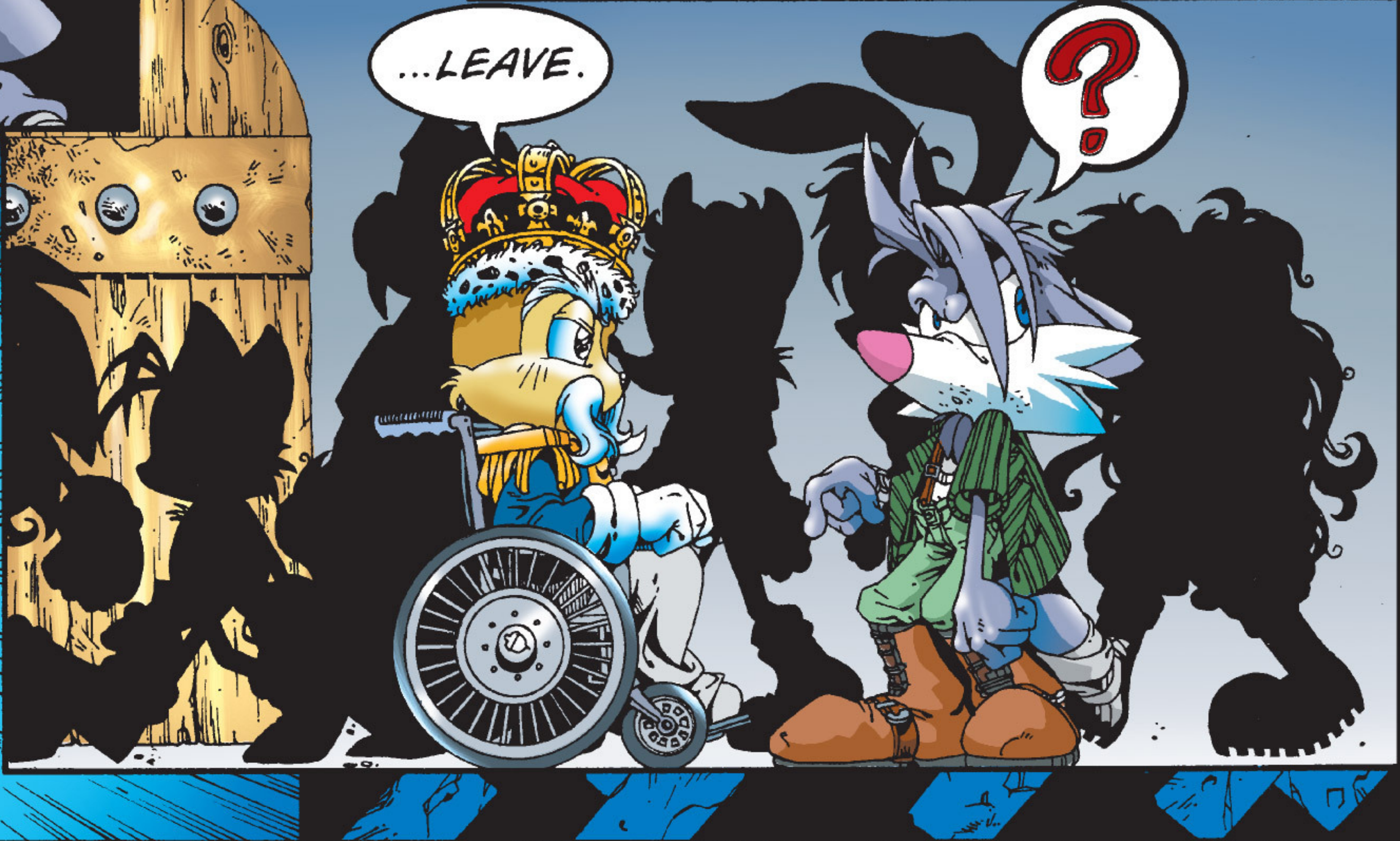
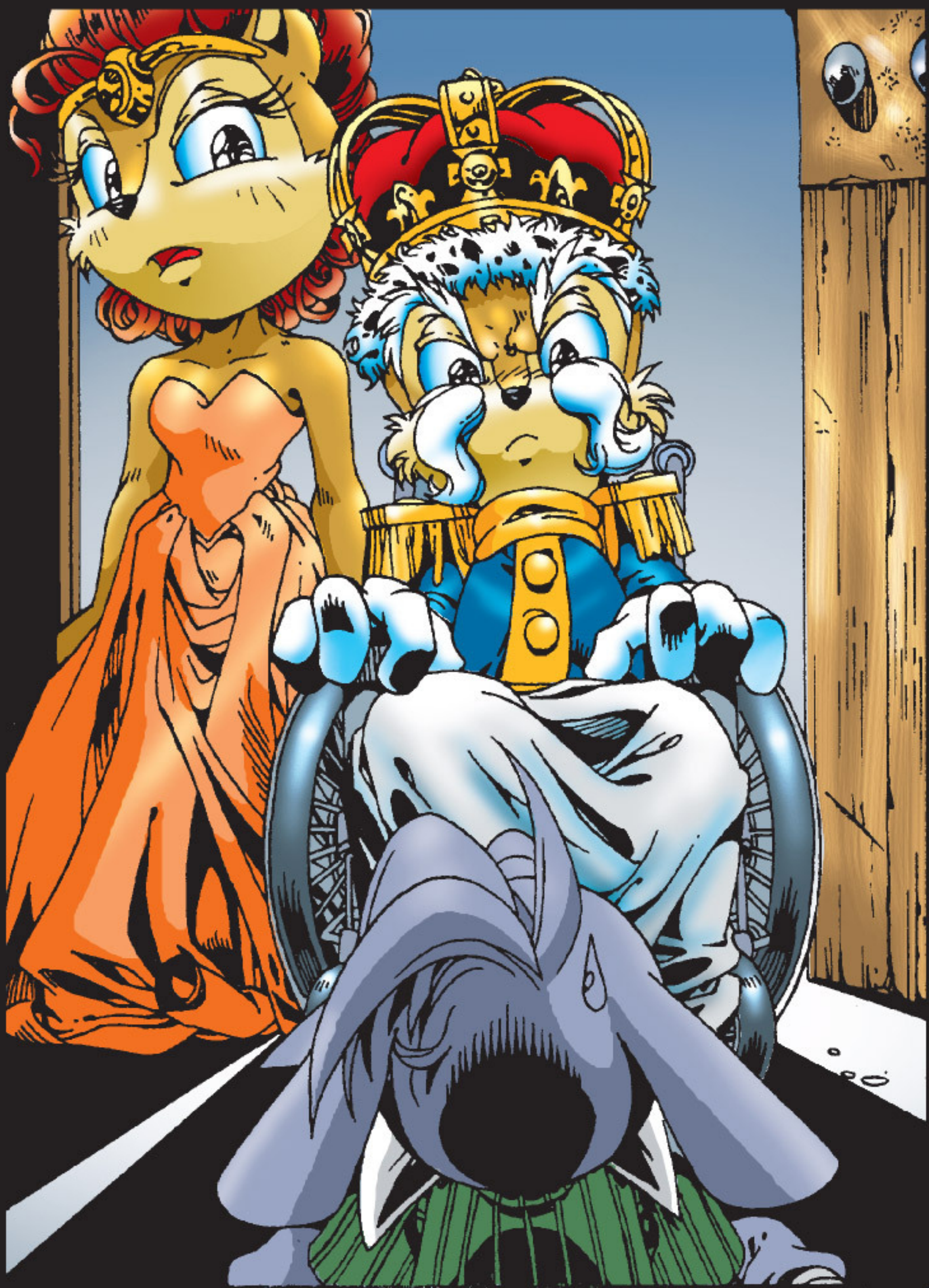


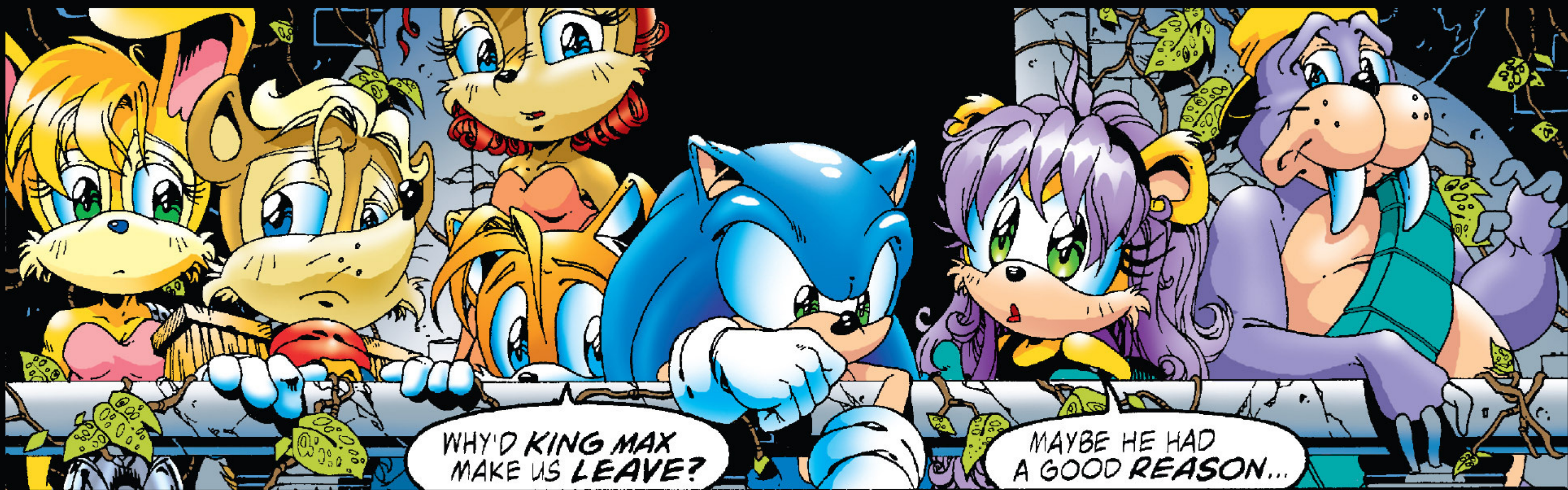
YUH LUCKY AH'M A SOUTHERN BELLE AT HEART, YUH JERK!

WHUD



SQUEAK
SQUEAK
SQUEAK





WHY'D KING MAX
MAKE US **LEAVE**?

MAYBE HE HAD
A GOOD **REASON**...

THEY'VE TAKEN
HER **NINETY** LEAGUES
NORTH BY **EIGHTY-**
NINE DEGREES
NORTHWEST--

--TO AN OLD
MANSION PASSED
DOWN TO NACK BY
HIS **WEASEL**
ANCESTORS.



HOW'D YOU
GET HIM TO **TALK**,
YOUR HIGHNESS?



LET'S **SAY** I
MADE HIM AN **OFFER**
HE COULDN'T
REFUSE.

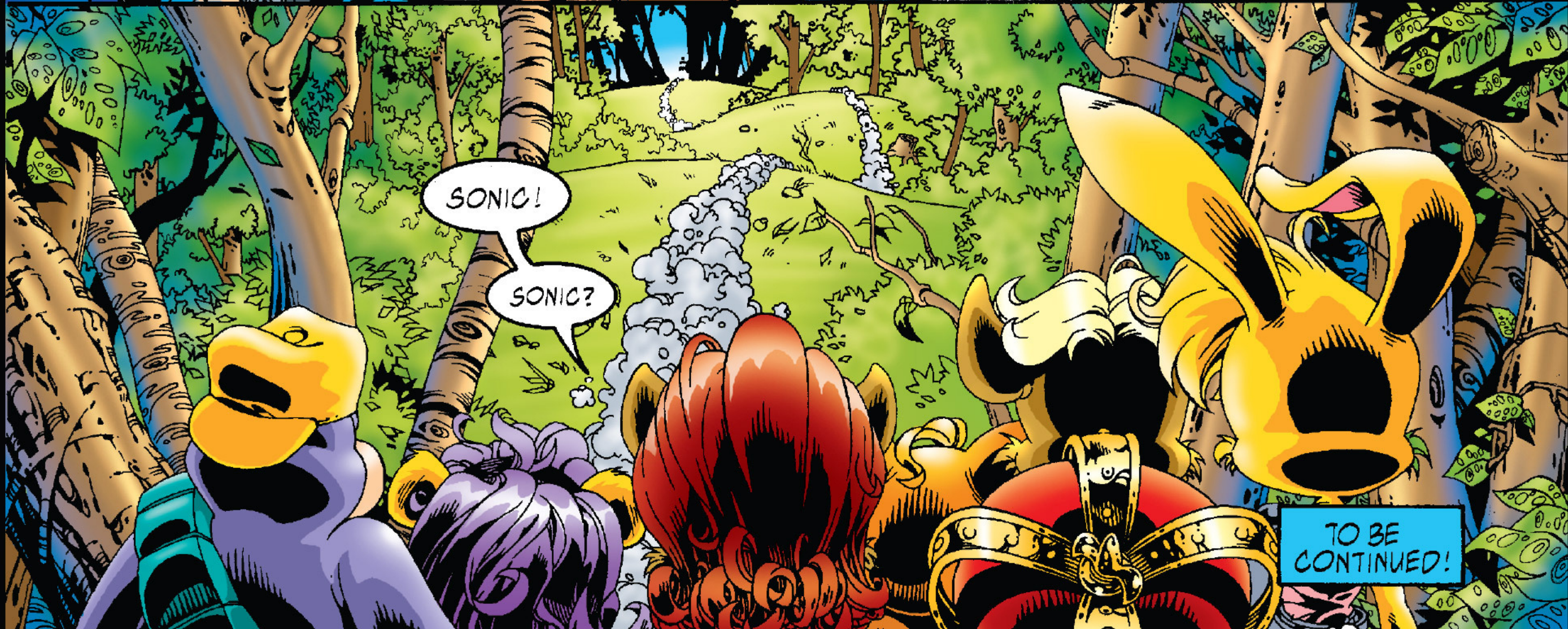
OH, MAX...

WHEN I GET
MY **HANDS** ON THESE
THIEVES--



-- I'LL
-- I'LL--

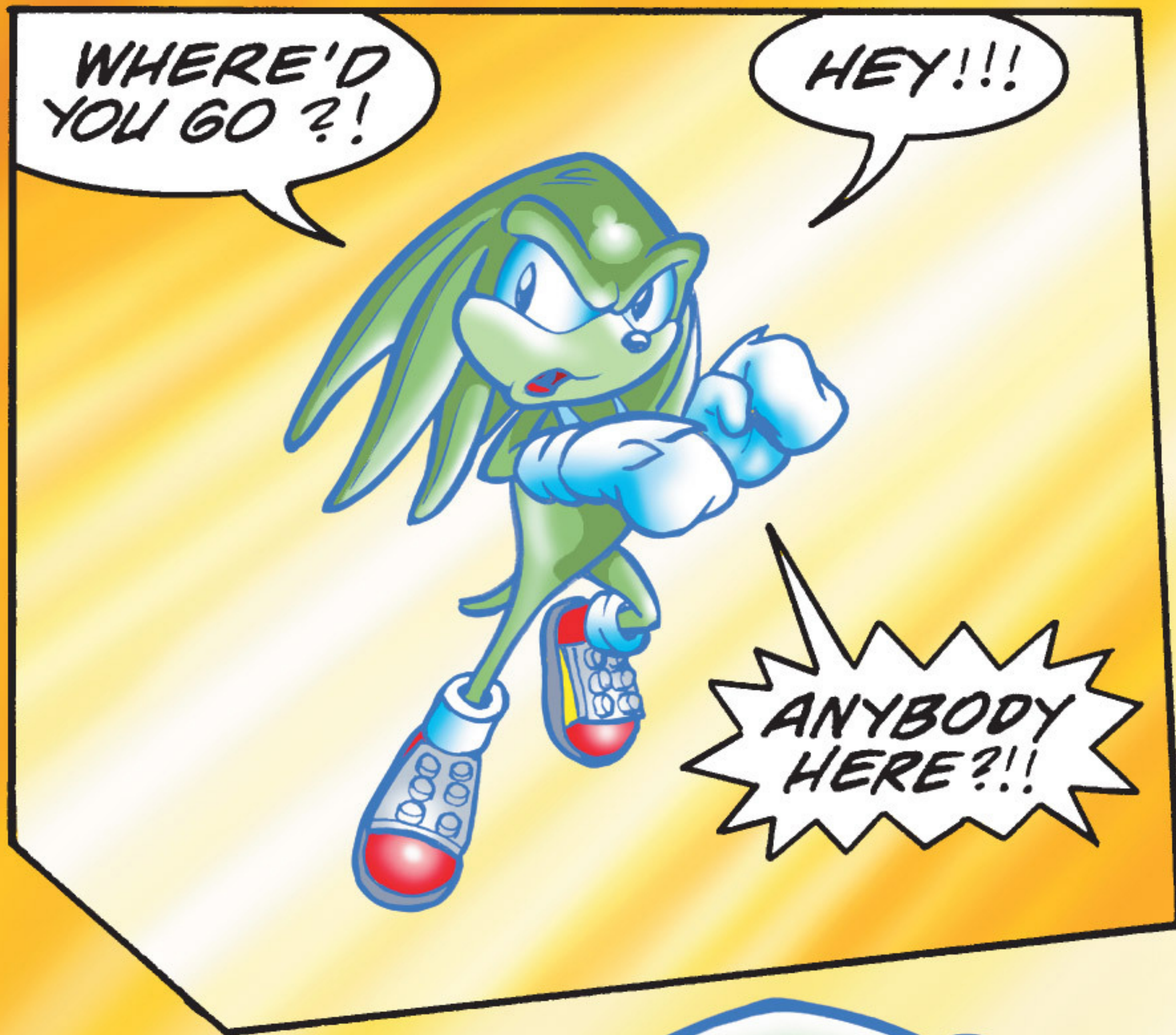
-- SONIC! I
NEED YOU TO--



SONIC!

SONIC?

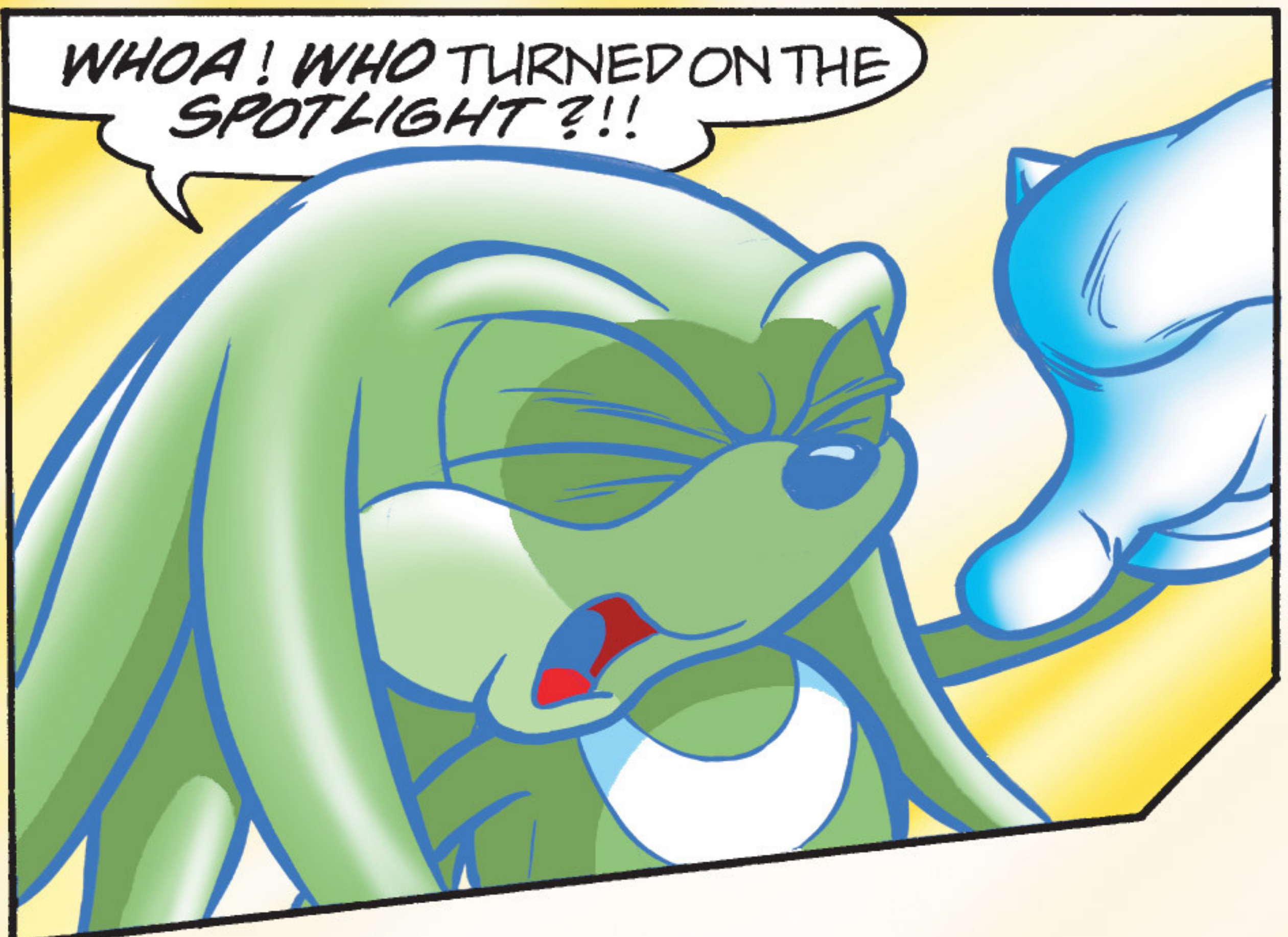
TO BE
CONTINUED!



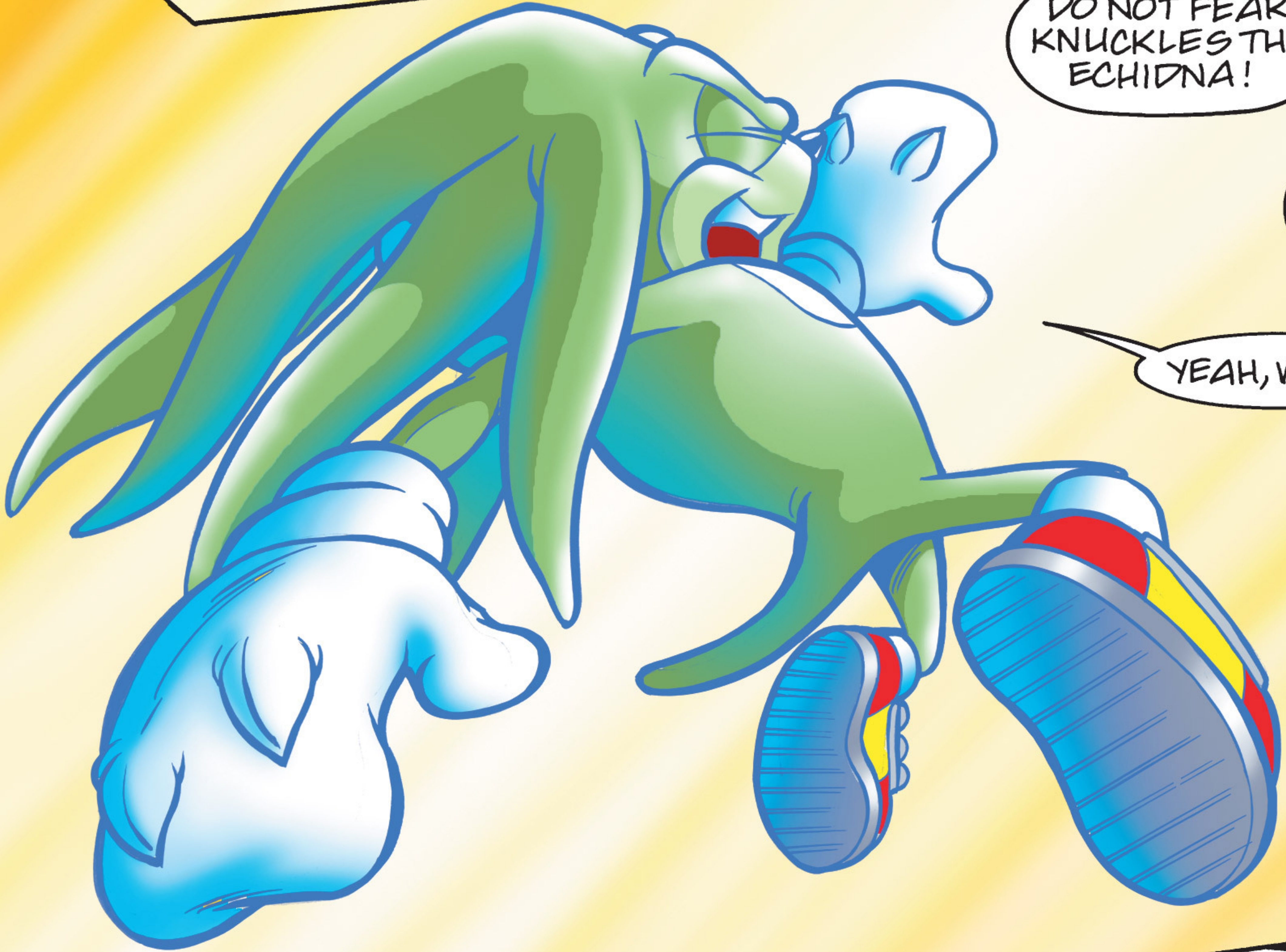
WHERE'D YOU GO ?!

HEY!!!

ANYBODY HERE?!!



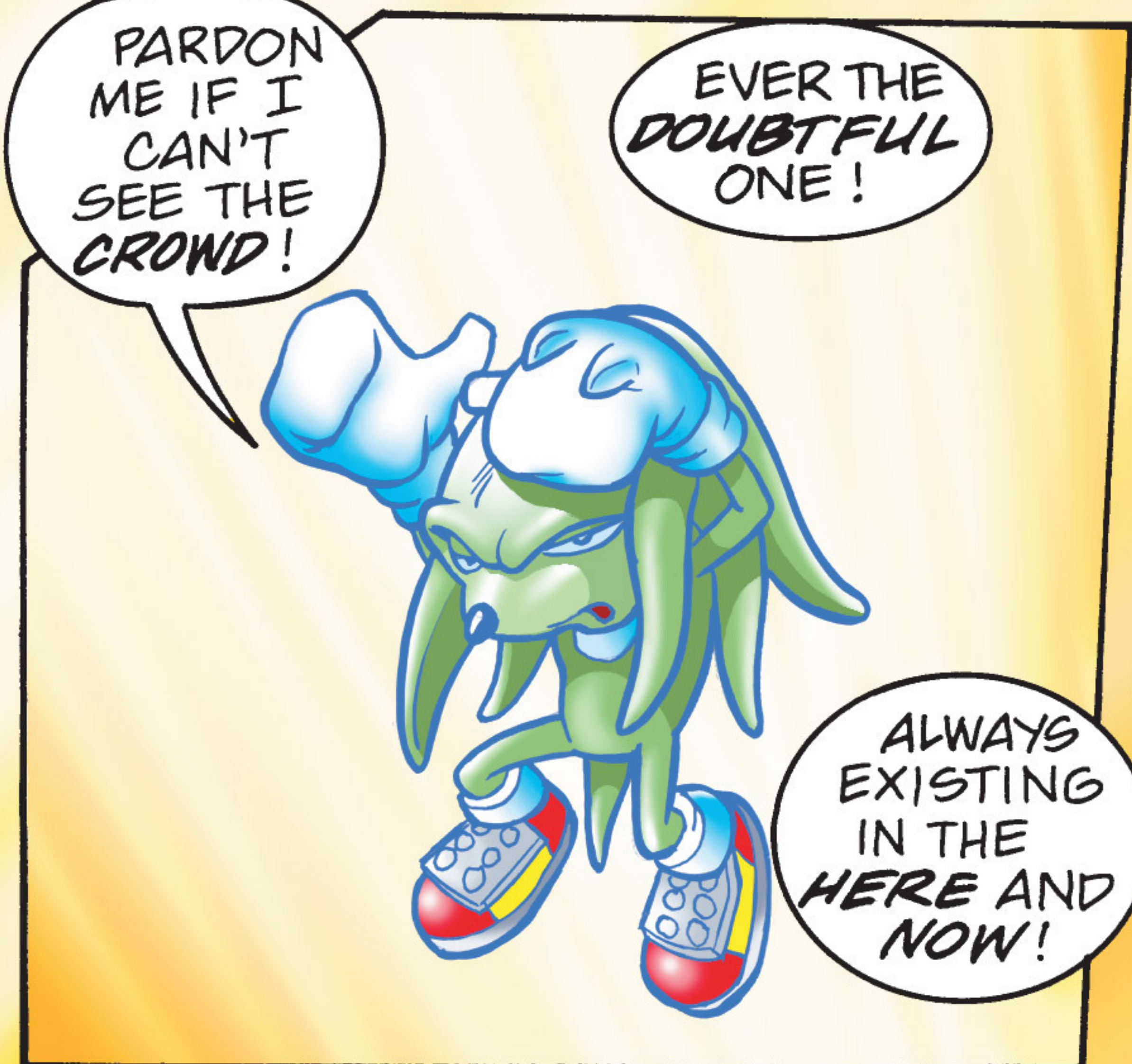
WHOA! WHO TURNED ON THE SPOTLIGHT ?!!



DO NOT FEAR, KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA!

YOU ARE FAR FROM ALONE!

YEAH, WELL--



PARDON ME IF I CAN'T SEE THE CROWD!

EVER THE DOUBTFUL ONE!

ALWAYS EXISTING IN THE HERE AND NOW!



HOW WOULD YOU KNOW ANYTHING OF WHAT I'M LIKE?



I KNOW **EVERYTHING** ABOUT YOU, KNUCKLES!

RIIIIGHT!

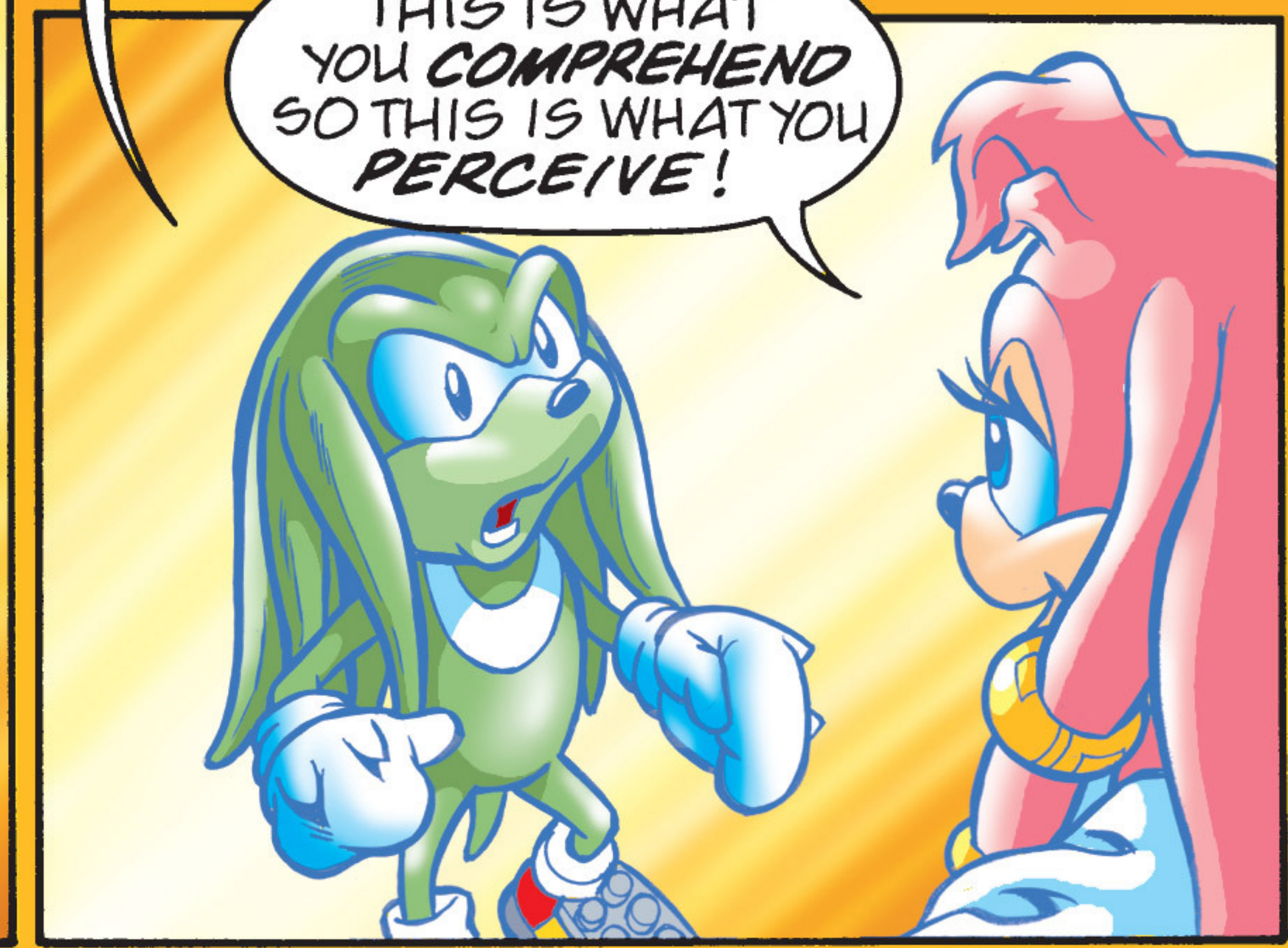
LET ME **GUESS**--YOU'RE ANOTHER **RELATIVE** NO ONE EVER TOLD ME ABOUT!



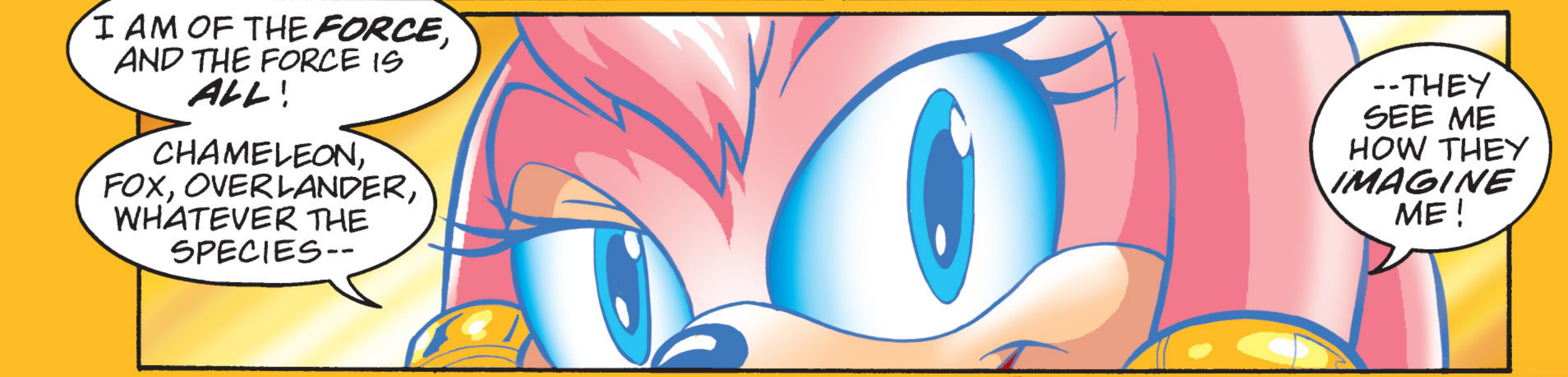
IN A MANNER OF SPEAKING!
I AM **AURORA**!

BUT YOU'RE--
YOU'RE--

--AN **ECHIDNA**?



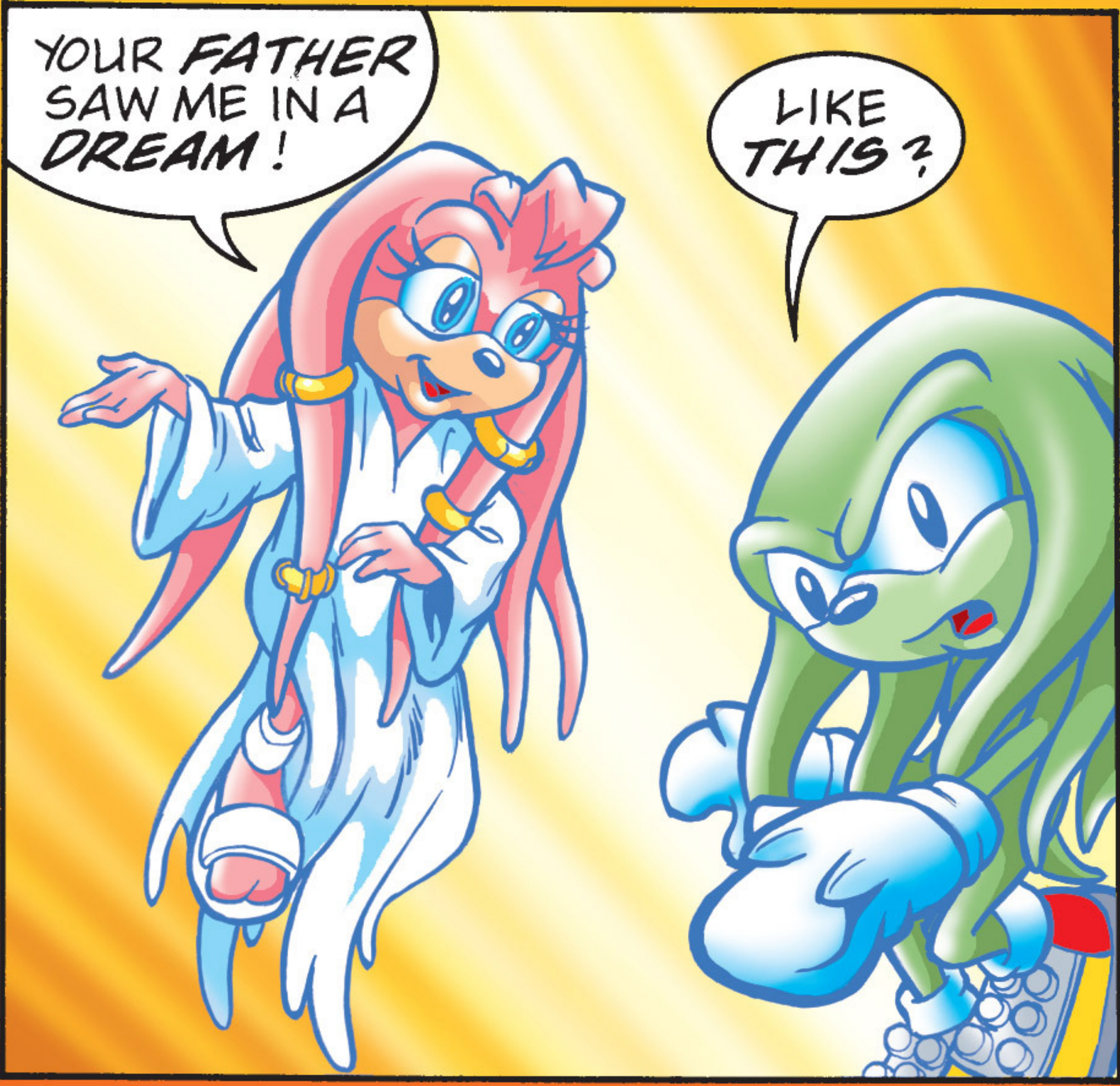
THIS IS WHAT YOU **COMPREHEND** SO THIS IS WHAT YOU **PERCEIVE**!



I AM OF THE **FORCE**, AND THE FORCE IS **ALL**!

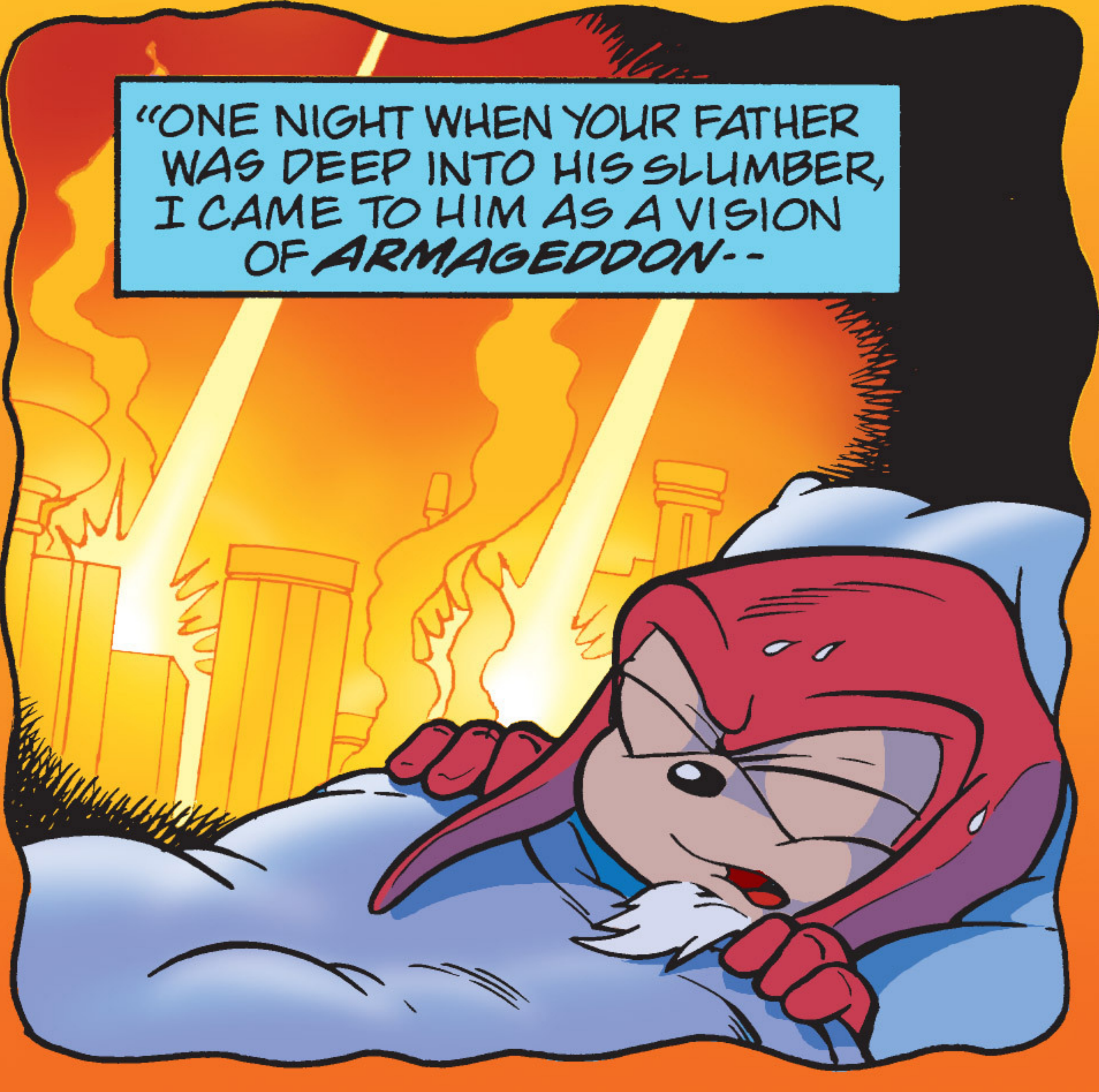
CHAMELEON, FOX, OVERLANDER, WHATEVER THE SPECIES--

--THEY SEE ME HOW THEY **IMAGINE** ME!



YOUR **FATHER** SAW ME IN A **DREAM**!

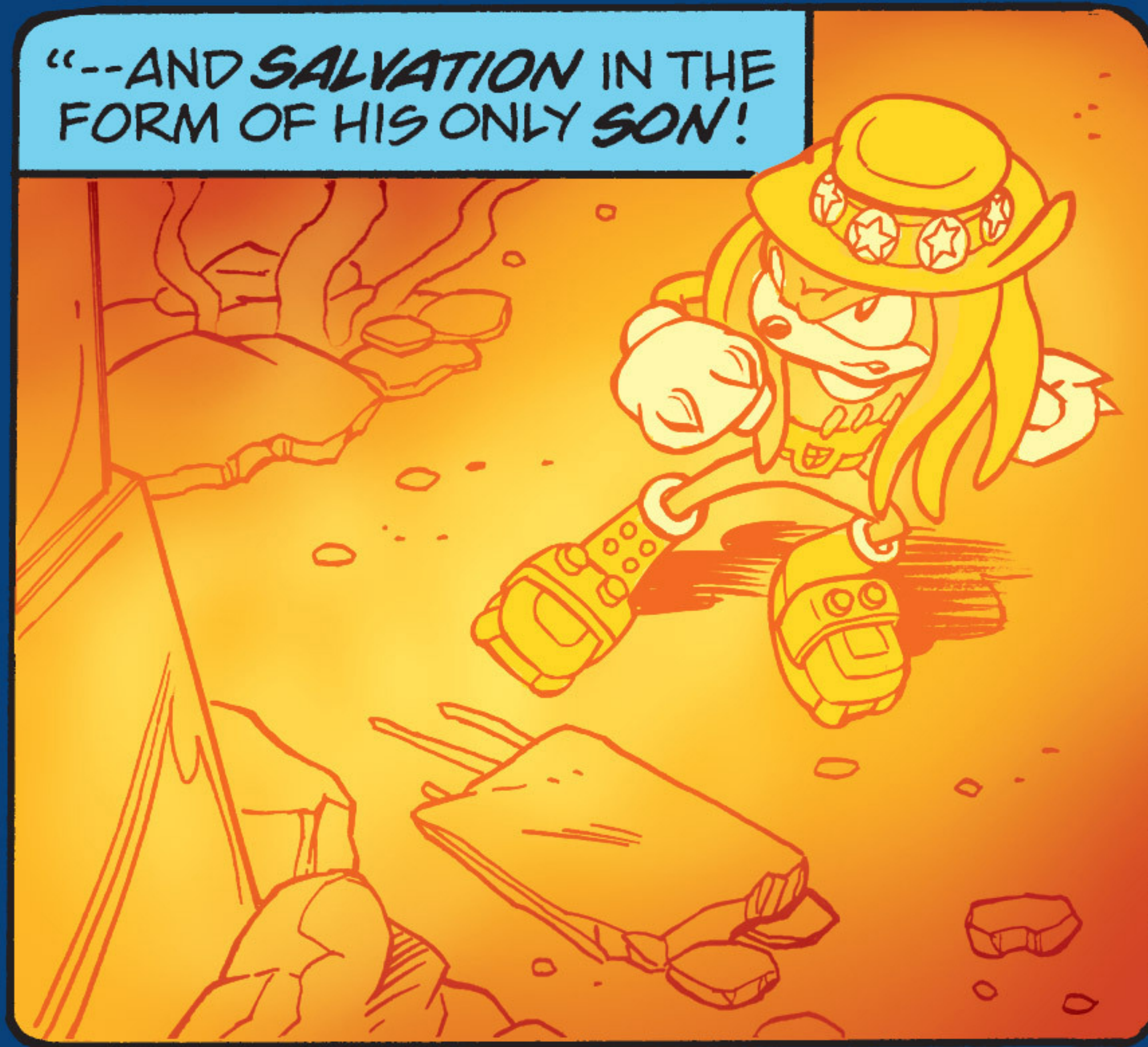
LIKE **THIS**?



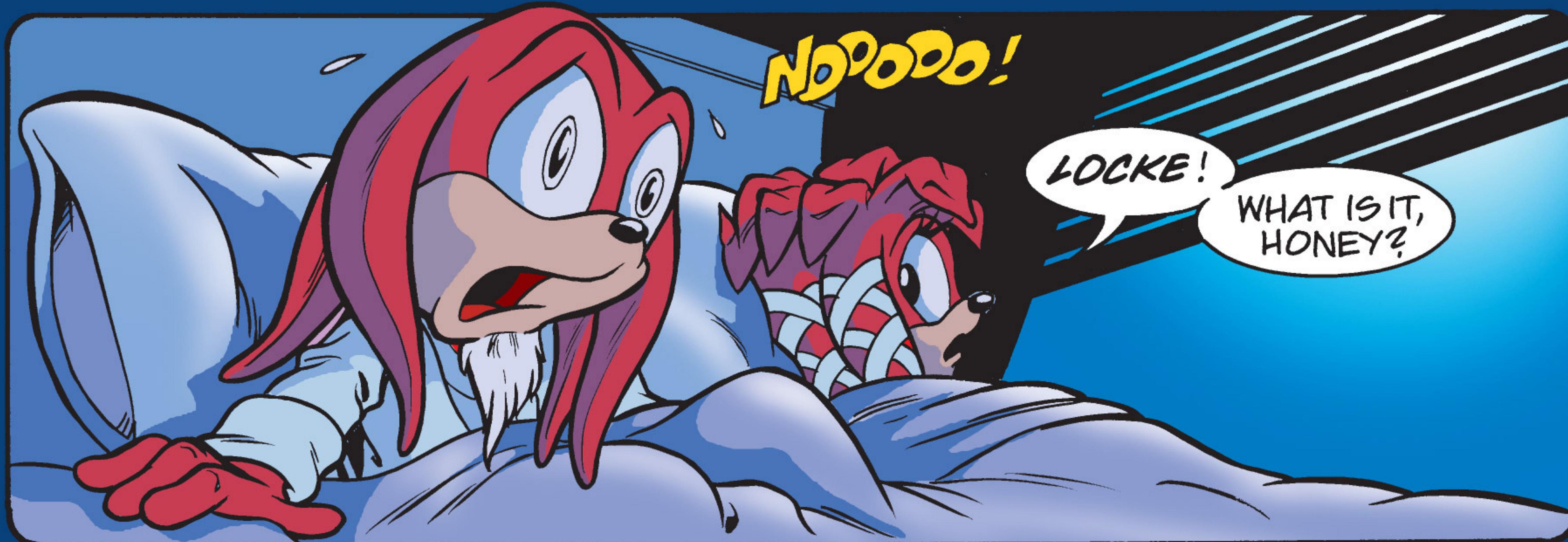
"ONE NIGHT WHEN YOUR FATHER WAS DEEP INTO HIS SLUMBER, I CAME TO HIM AS A VISION OF **ARMAGEDDON**--



"--WHERE HE SAW A
MONSTER BENT ON
DESTRUCTION--



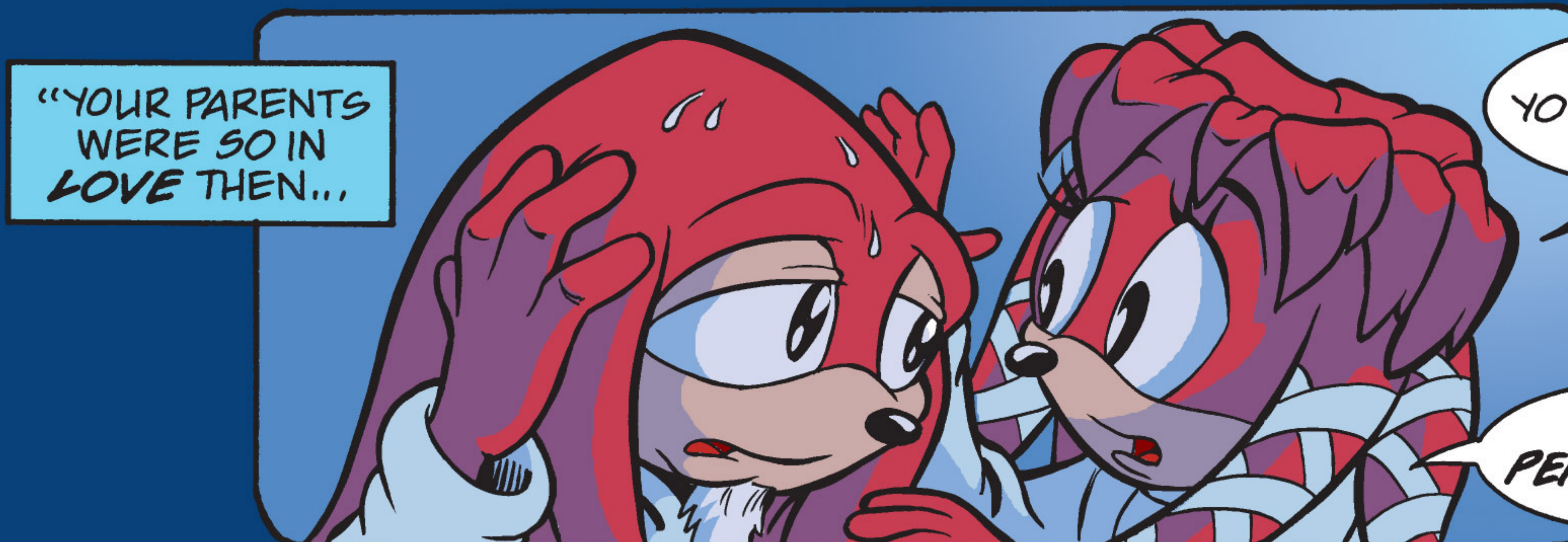
"--AND **SALVATION** IN THE
FORM OF HIS ONLY **SON**!



NOOOO!

LOCKE!

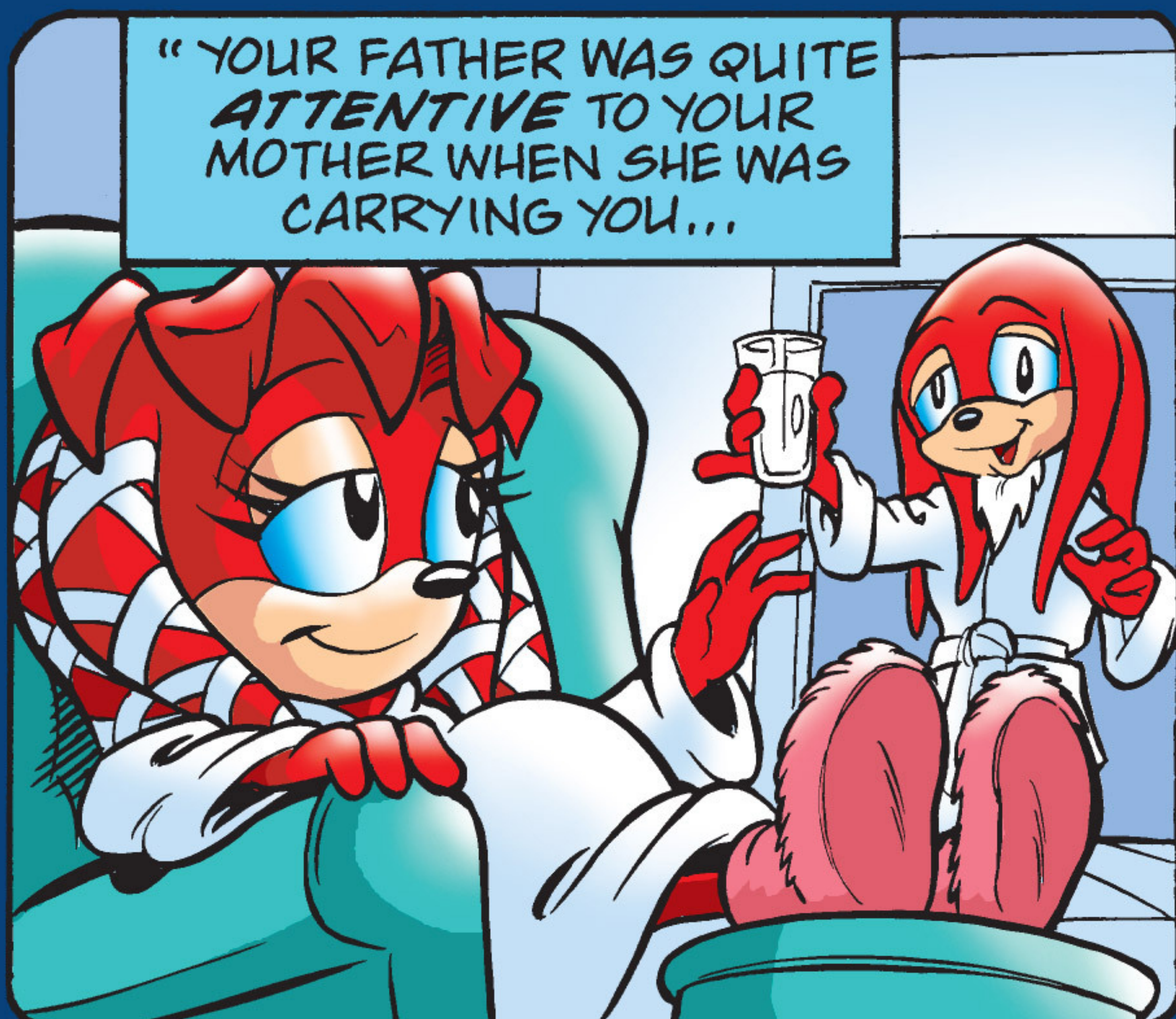
WHAT IS IT,
HONEY?



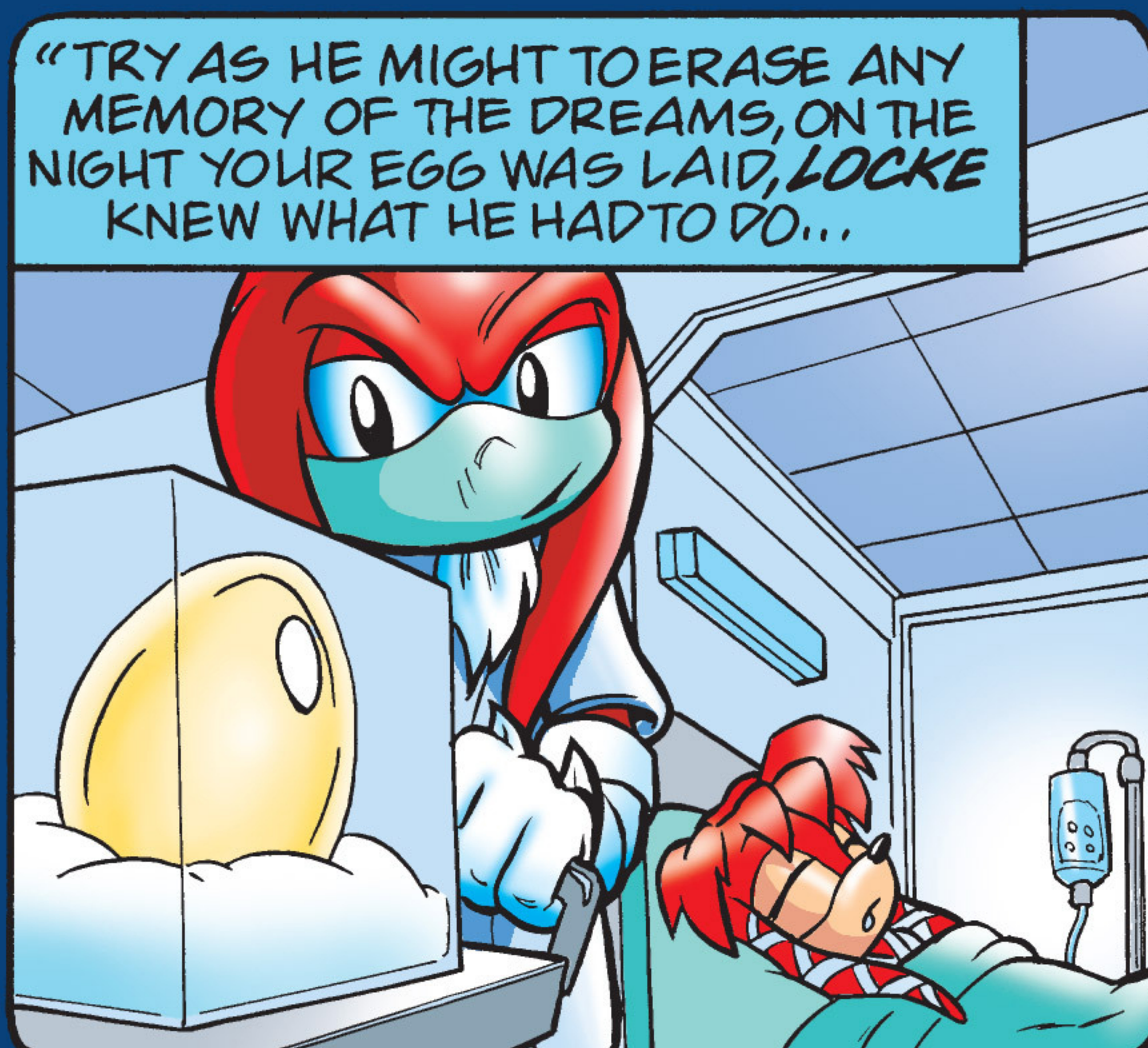
"YOUR PARENTS
WERE SO IN
LOVE THEN...

ARE
YOU ALL RIGHT,
LOCKE?

YOU'RE
PERSPIRING!

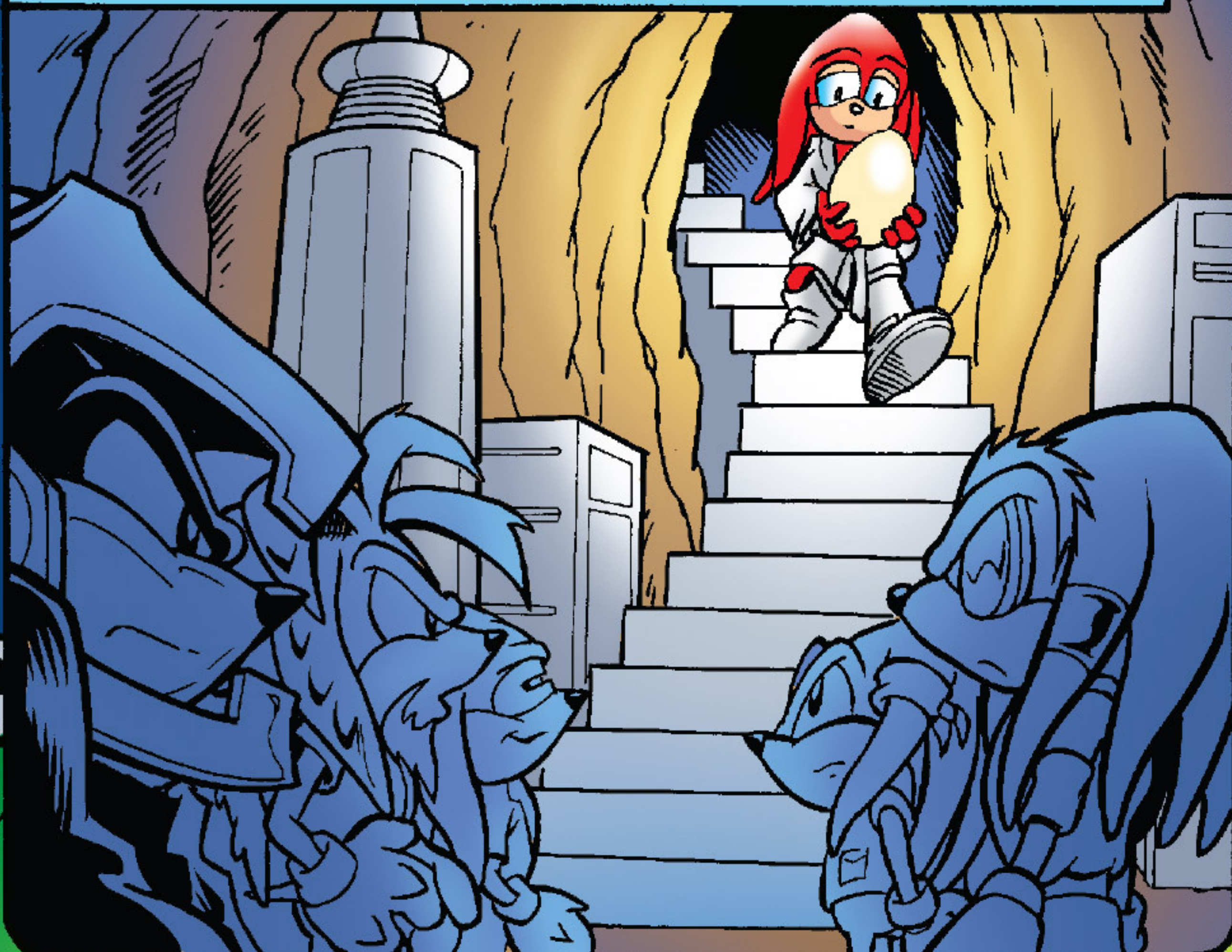


"YOUR FATHER WAS QUITE
ATTENTIVE TO YOUR
MOTHER WHEN SHE WAS
CARRYING YOU...



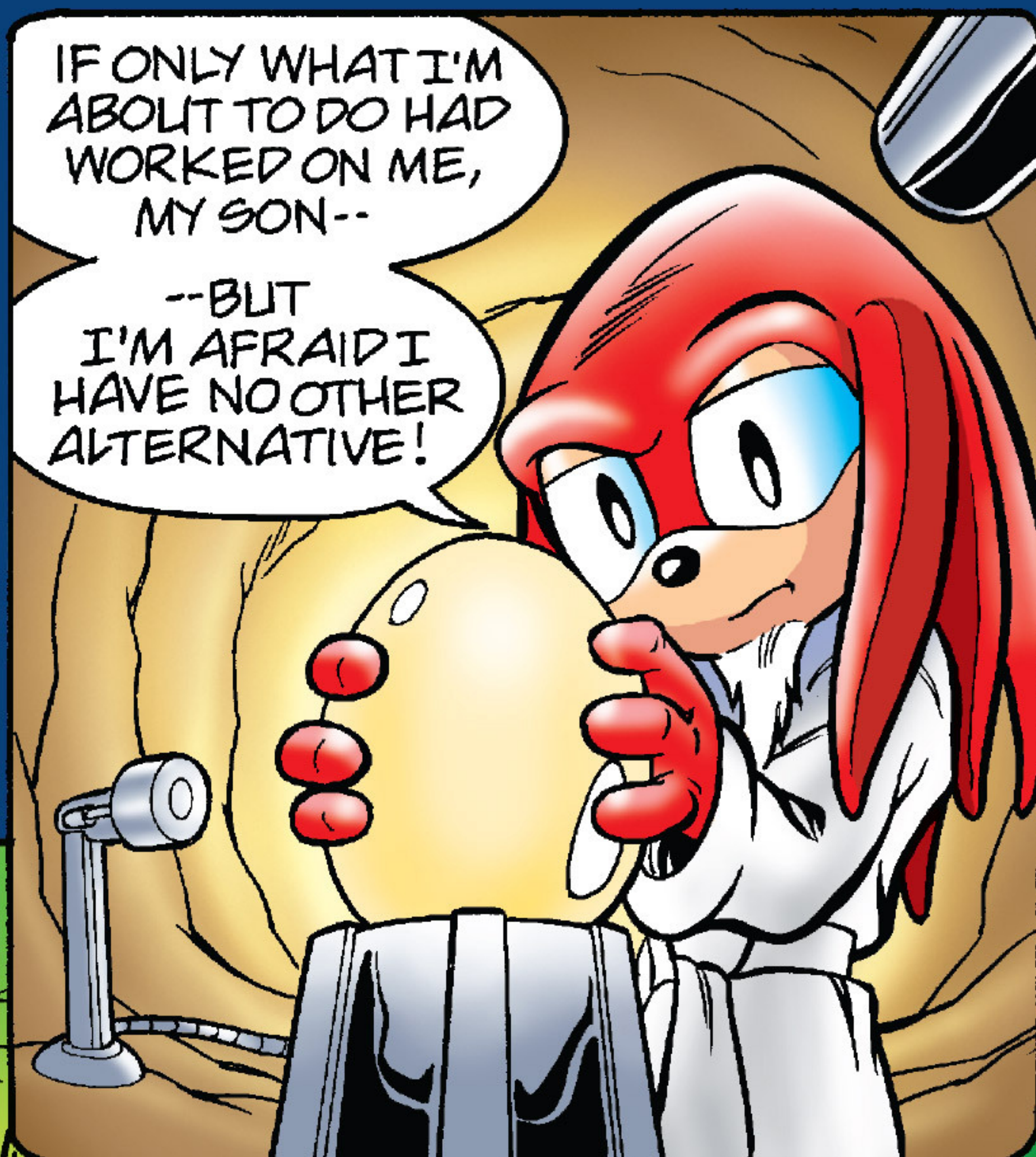
"TRY AS HE MIGHT TO ERASE ANY
MEMORY OF THE DREAMS, ON THE
NIGHT YOUR EGG WAS LAID, **LOCKE**
KNEW WHAT HE HAD TO DO...

"IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT, HE TRAVELED TO THE **CHAOS CHAMBER** WHERE THE **BROTHERHOOD** AWAITED THE BOTH OF YOU..."

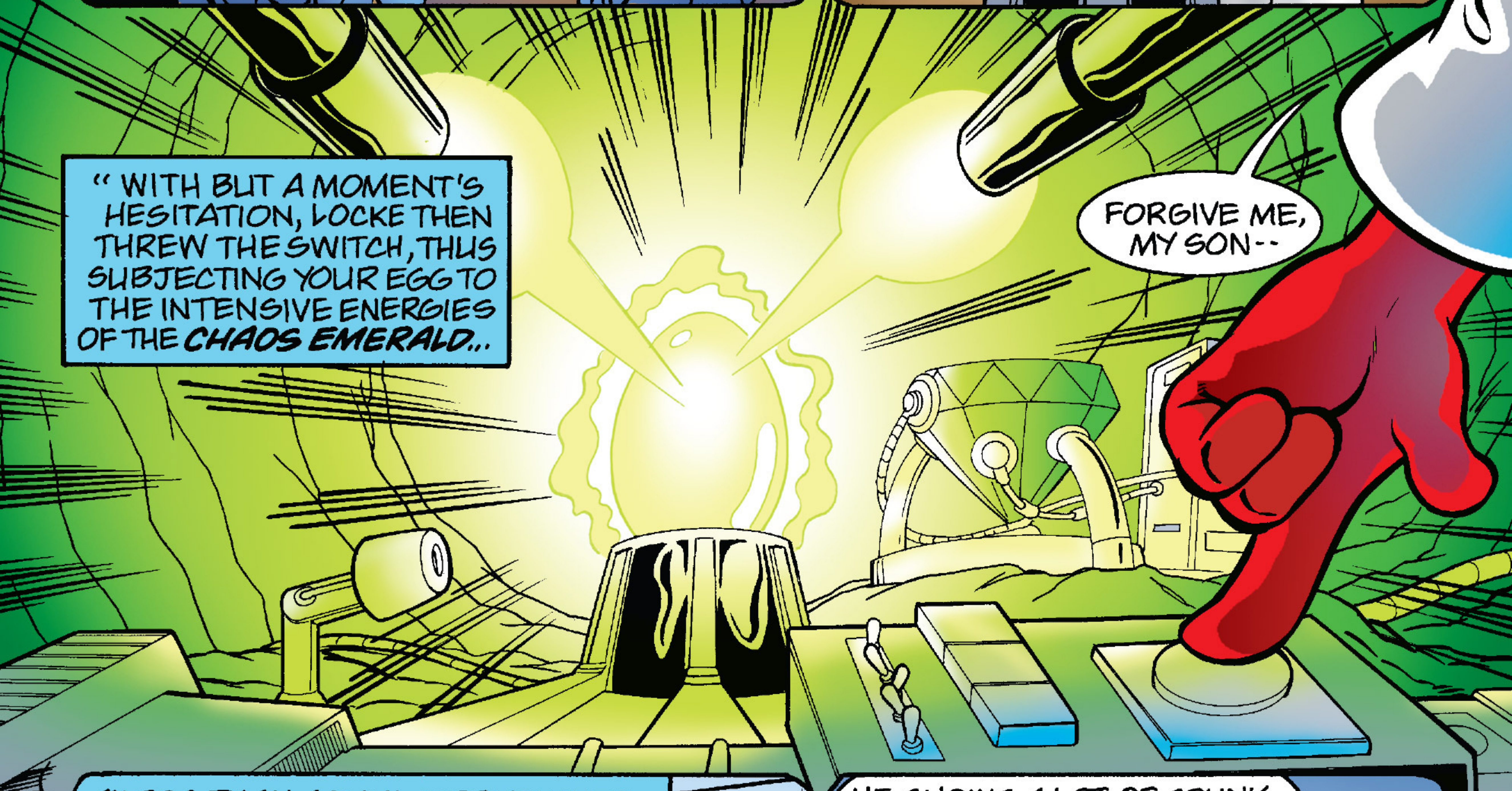


IF ONLY WHAT I'M ABOUT TO DO HAD WORKED ON ME, MY SON--

--BUT I'M AFRAID I HAVE NO OTHER ALTERNATIVE!

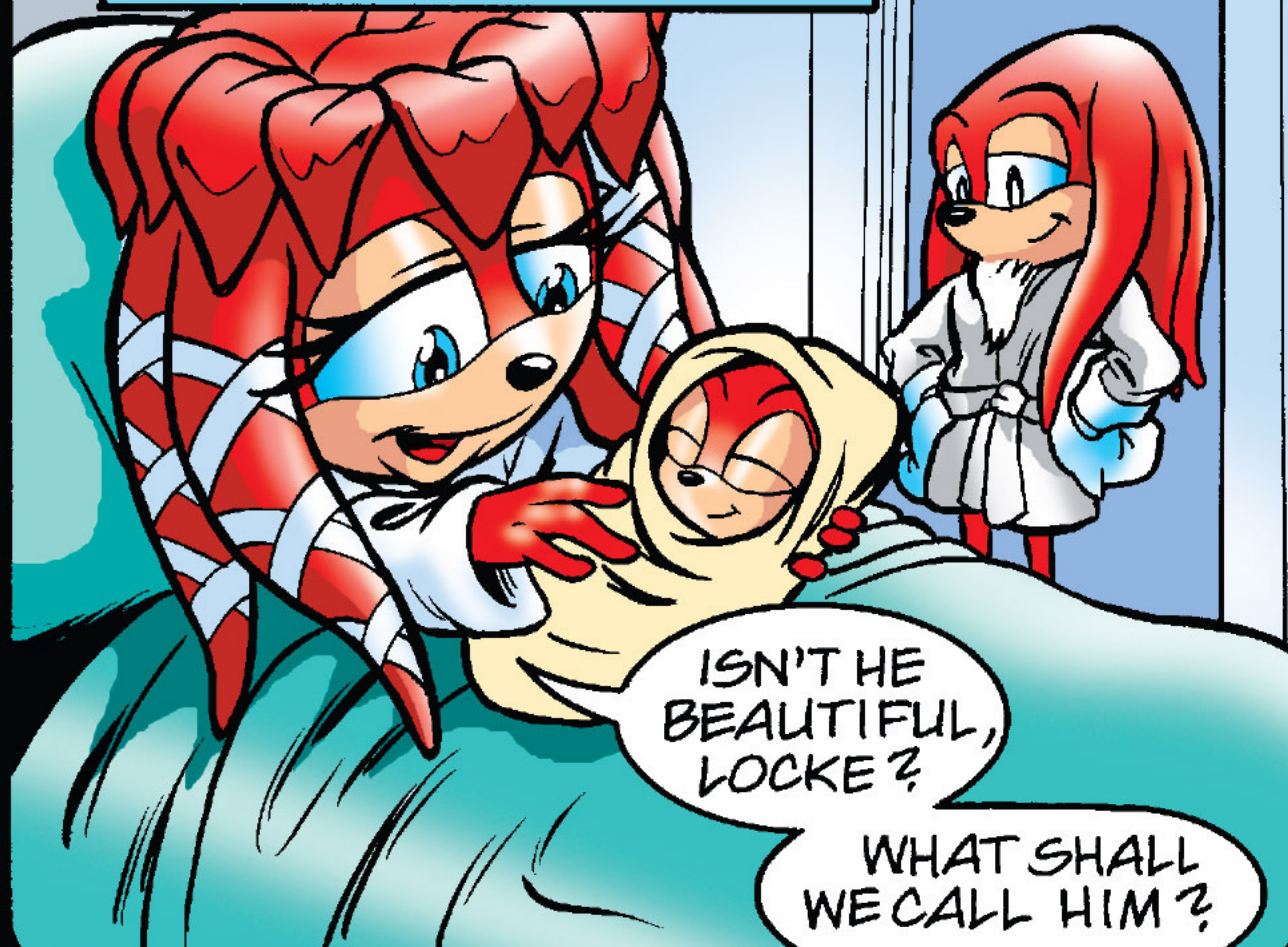


"WITH BUT A MOMENT'S HESITATION, LOCKE THEN THREW THE SWITCH, THUS SUBJECTING YOUR EGG TO THE INTENSIVE ENERGIES OF THE **CHAOS EMERALD**..."



FORGIVE ME, MY SON--

"LESS THAN A DAY LATER, YOU WERE **HATCHED**, YOUR MOTHER **UNAWARE** OF YOUR TRUE **NATURE**..."



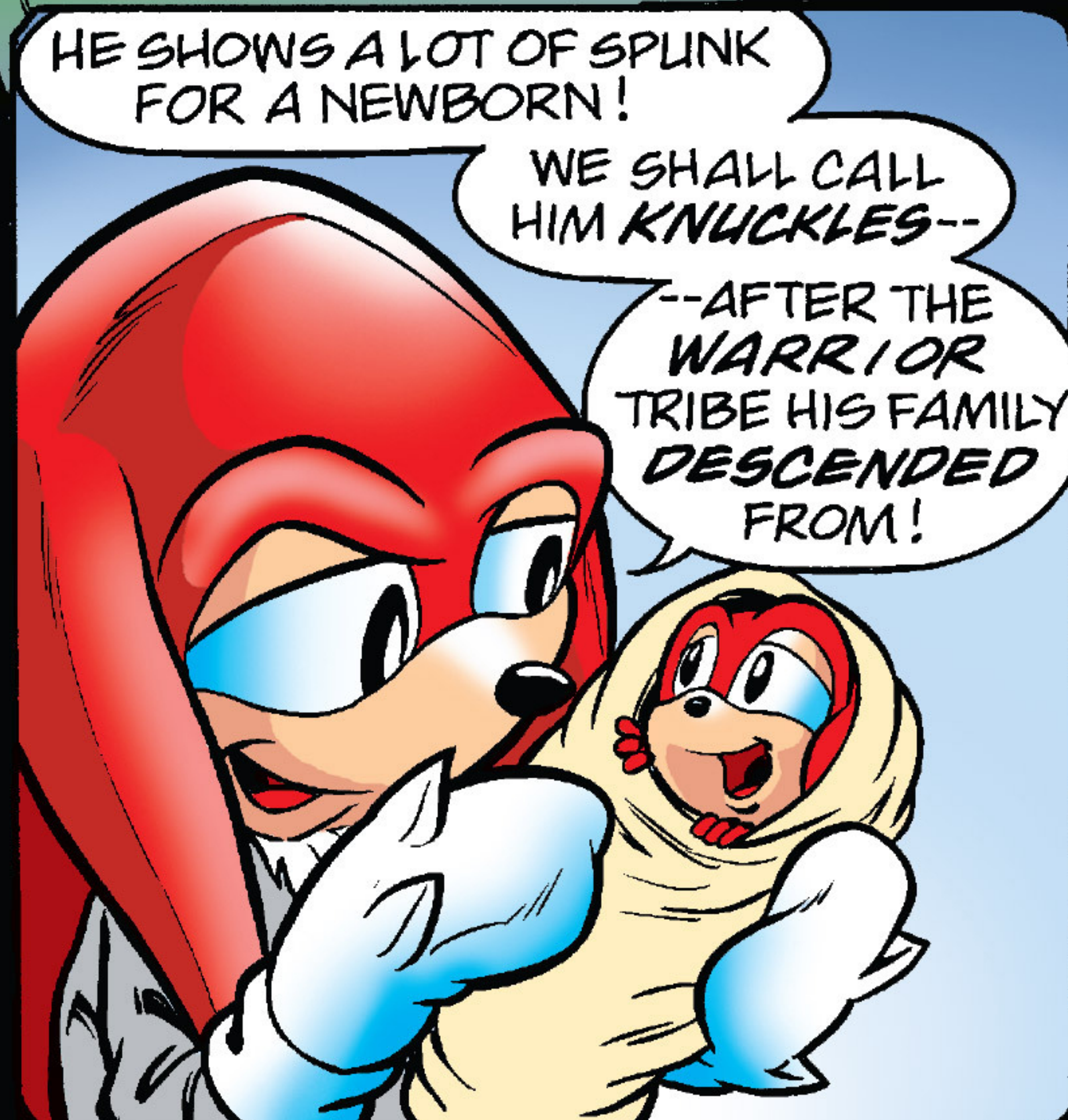
ISN'T HE BEAUTIFUL, LOCKE?

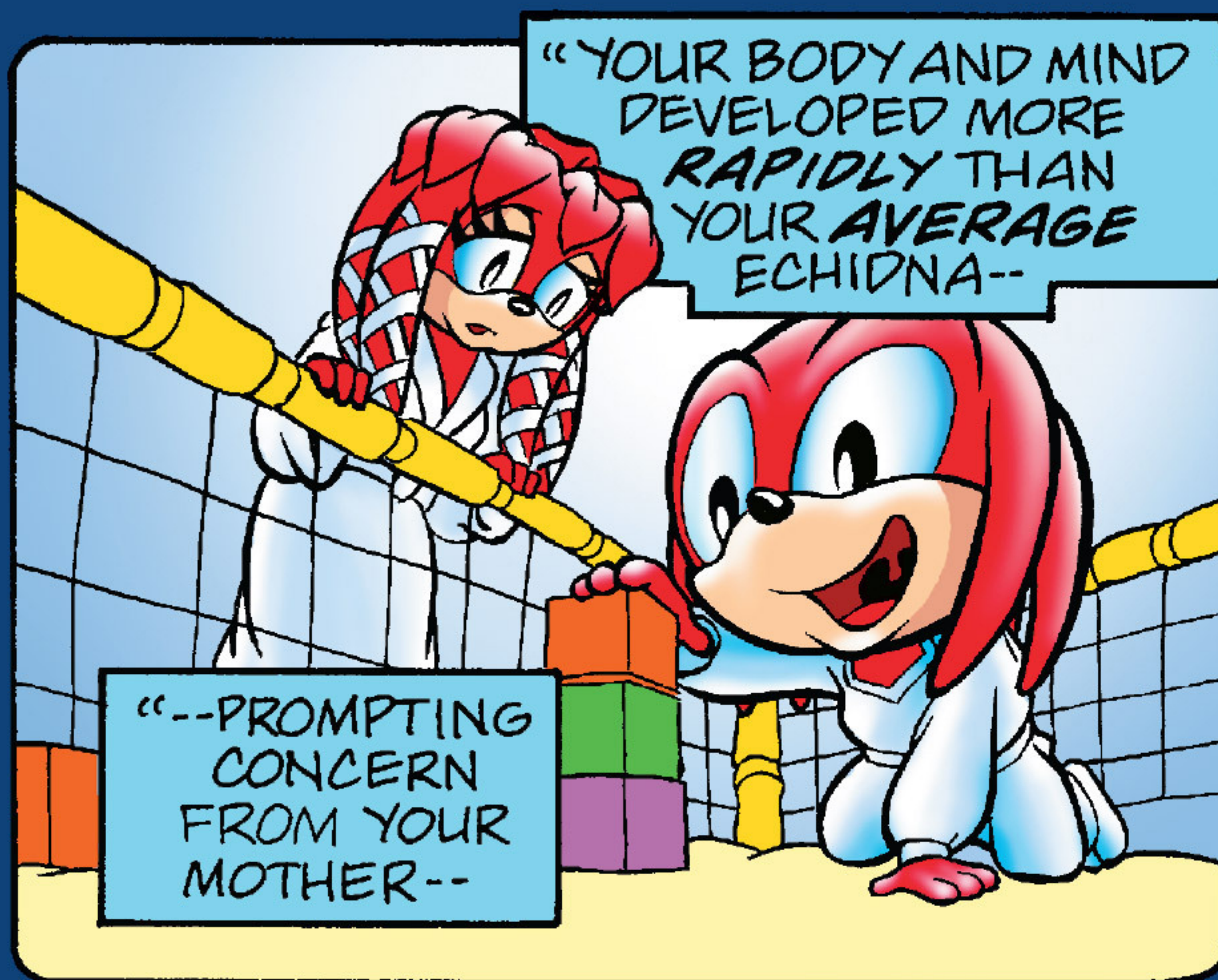
WHAT SHALL WE CALL HIM?

HE SHOWS A LOT OF SPUNK FOR A NEWBORN!

WE SHALL CALL HIM **KNUCKLES**--

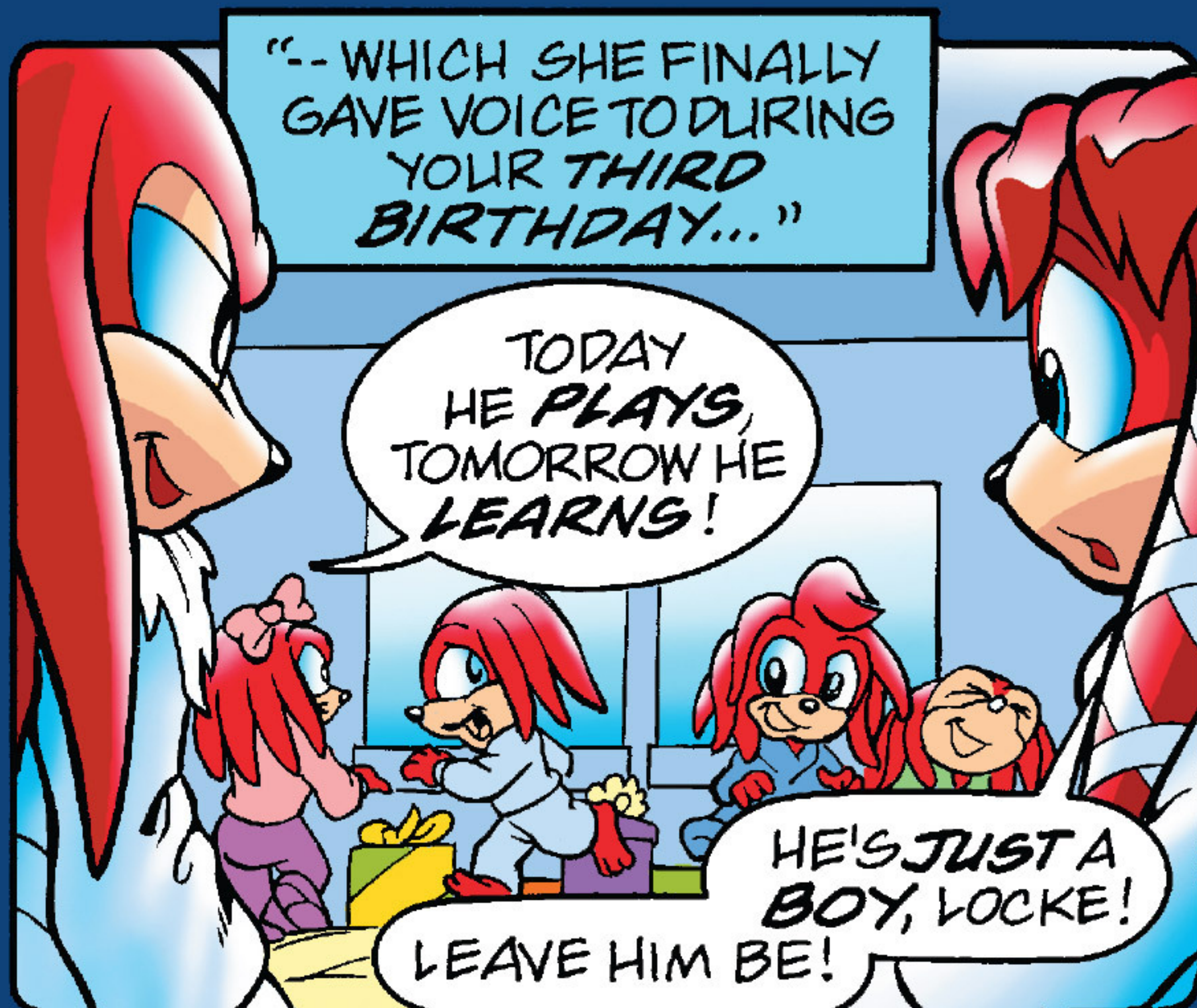
--AFTER THE **WARRIOR** TRIBE HIS FAMILY **DESCENDED** FROM!





"YOUR BODY AND MIND DEVELOPED MORE **RAPIDLY** THAN YOUR **AVERAGE** ECHIDNA--

"--PROMPTING CONCERN FROM YOUR MOTHER--

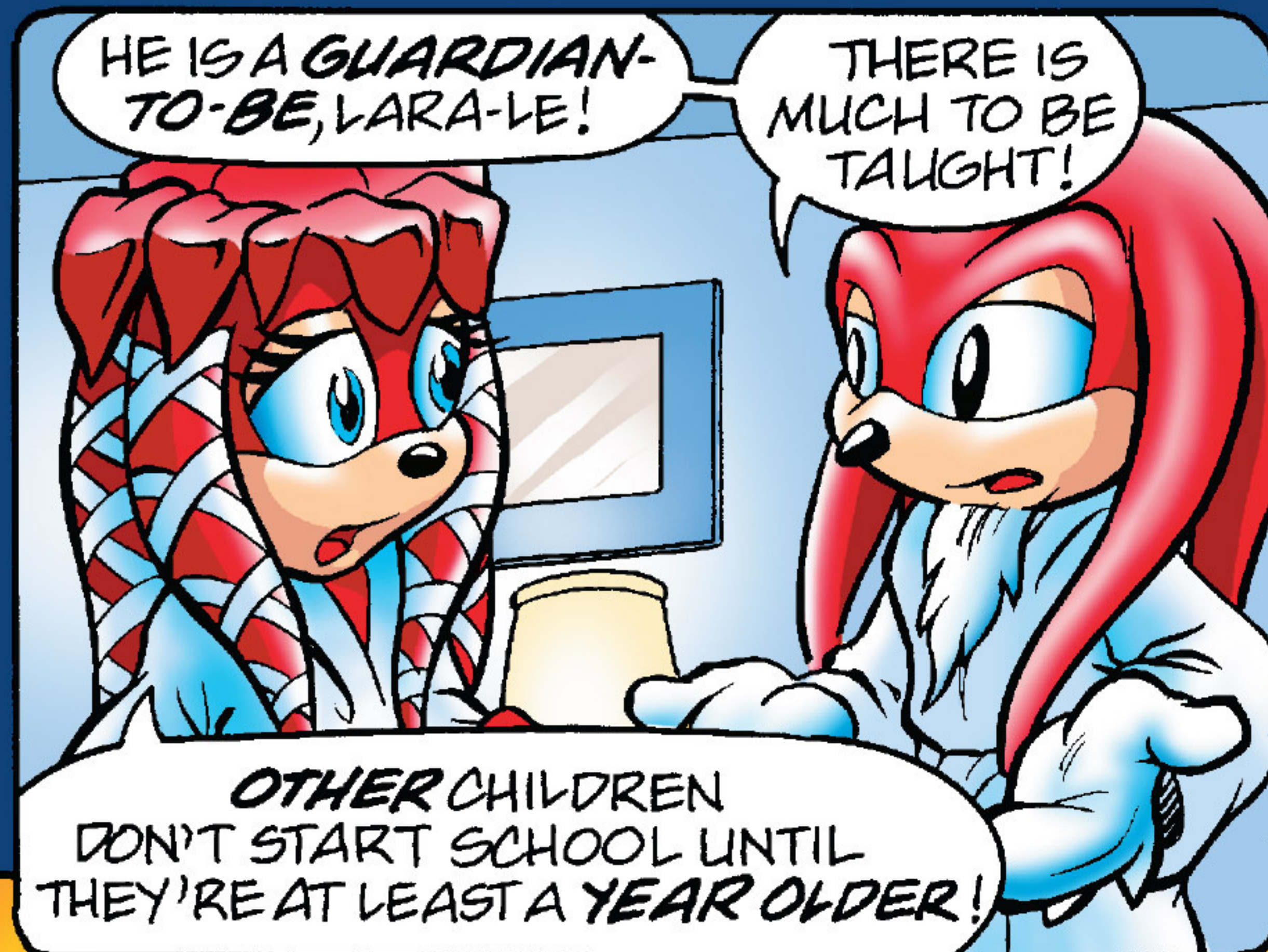


"-- WHICH SHE FINALLY GAVE VOICE TO DURING YOUR **THIRD BIRTHDAY...**"

TODAY HE **PLAYS**, TOMORROW HE **LEARNS!**

HE'S **JUST A BOY**, LOCKE!

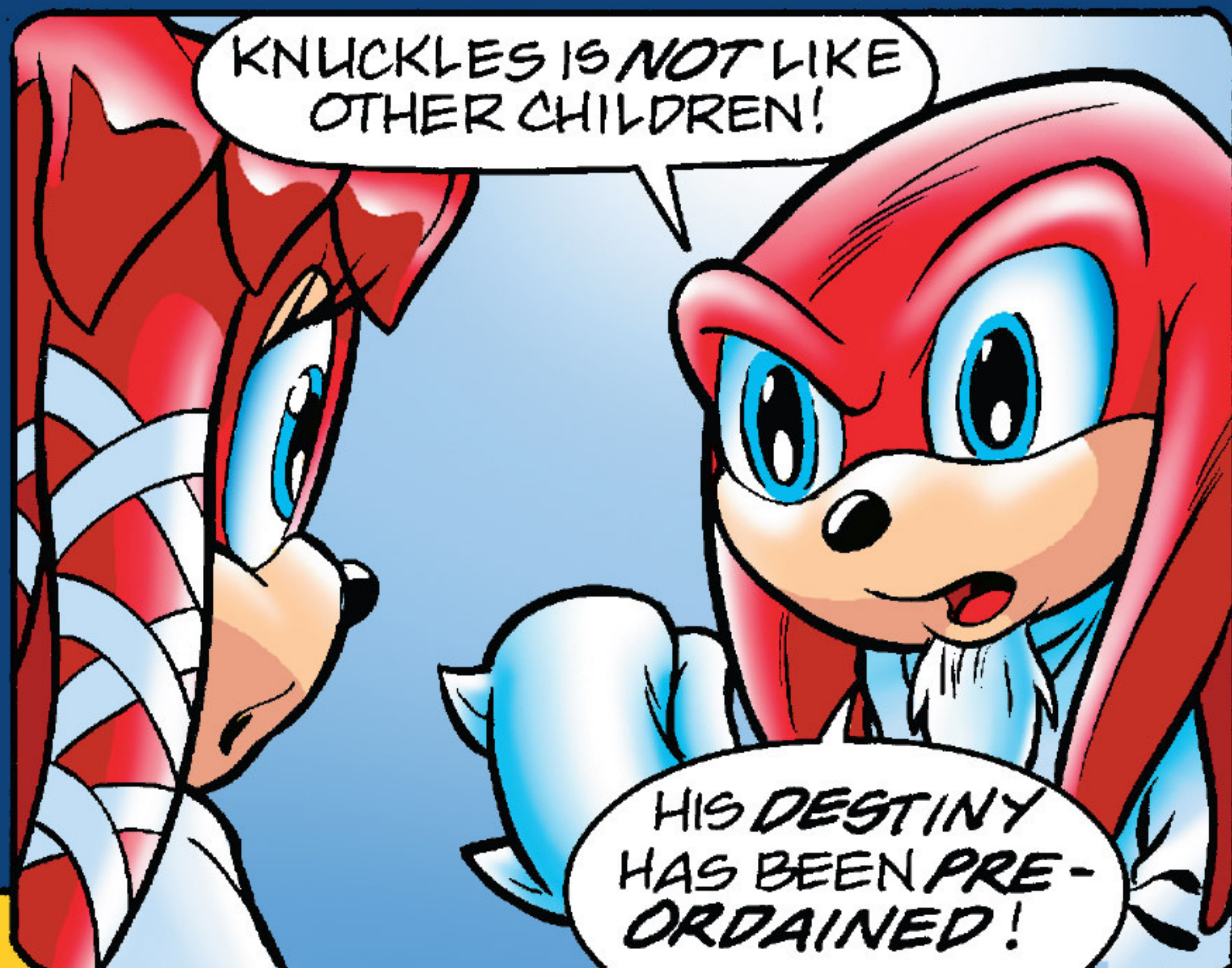
LEAVE HIM BE!



HE IS A **GUARDIAN-TO-BE**, LARA-LE!

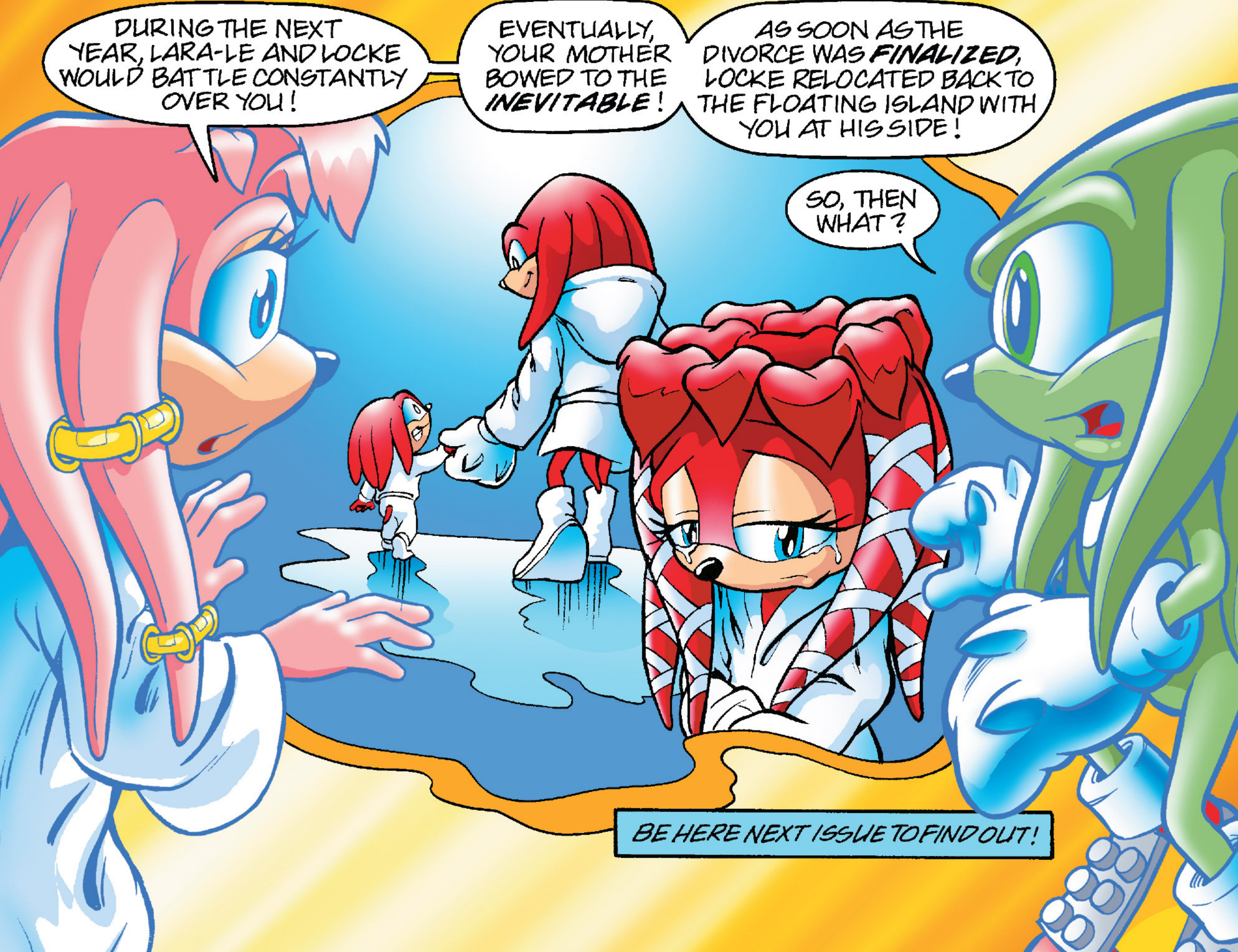
THERE IS MUCH TO BE TAUGHT!

OTHER CHILDREN DON'T START SCHOOL UNTIL THEY'RE AT LEAST A **YEAR OLDER!**



KNUCKLES IS **NOT** LIKE OTHER CHILDREN!

HIS **DESTINY** HAS BEEN **PRE-ORDAINED!**



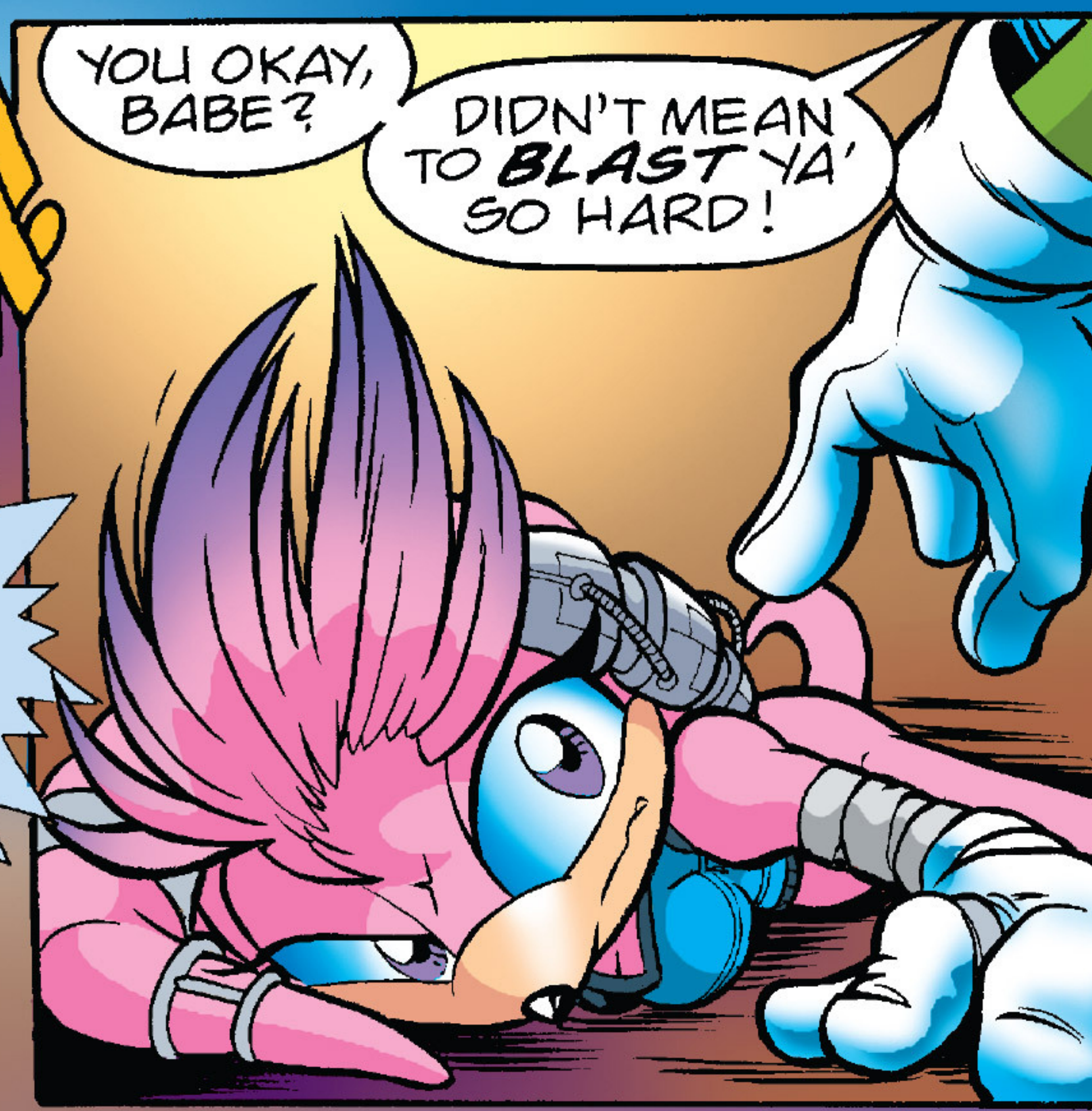
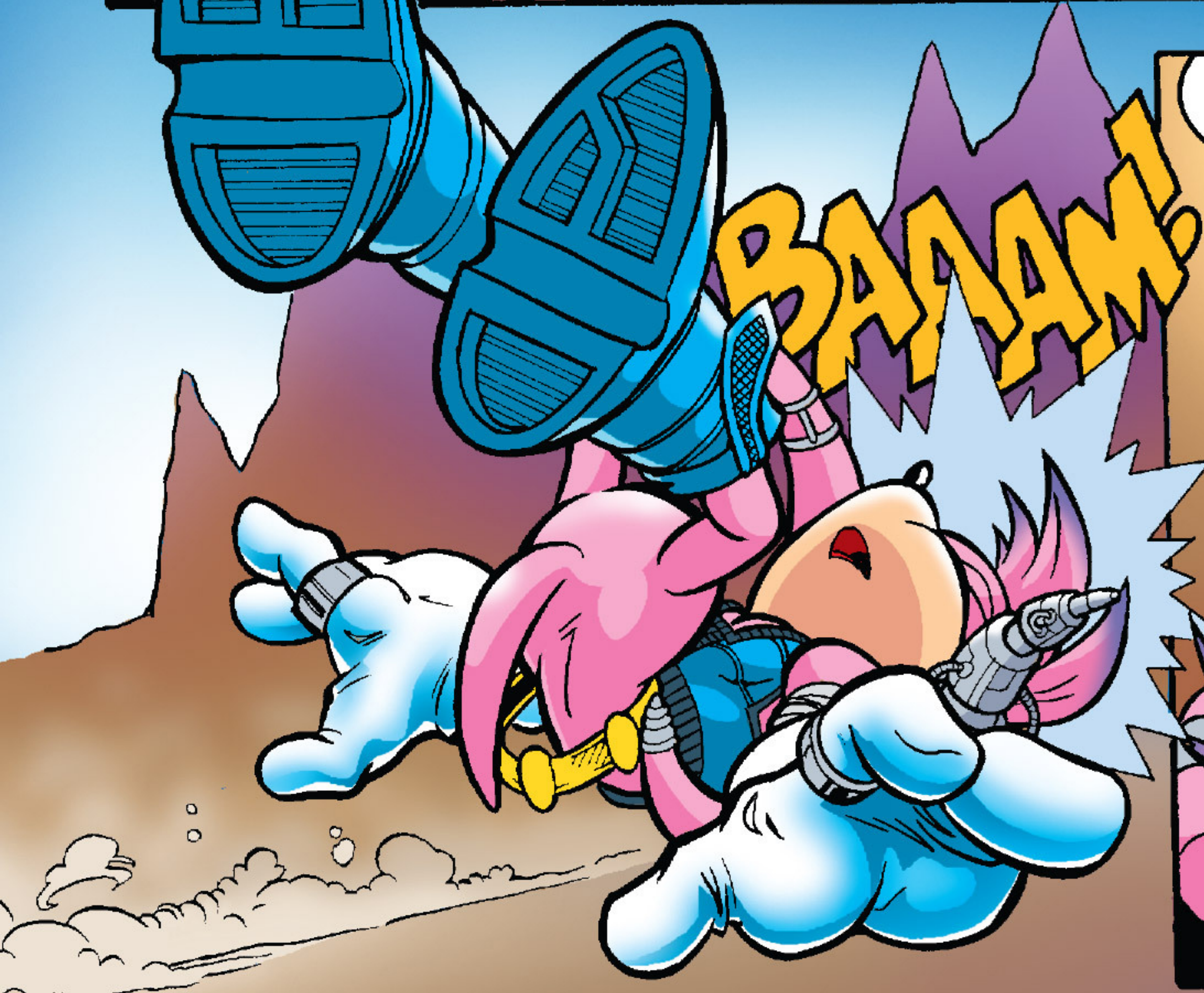
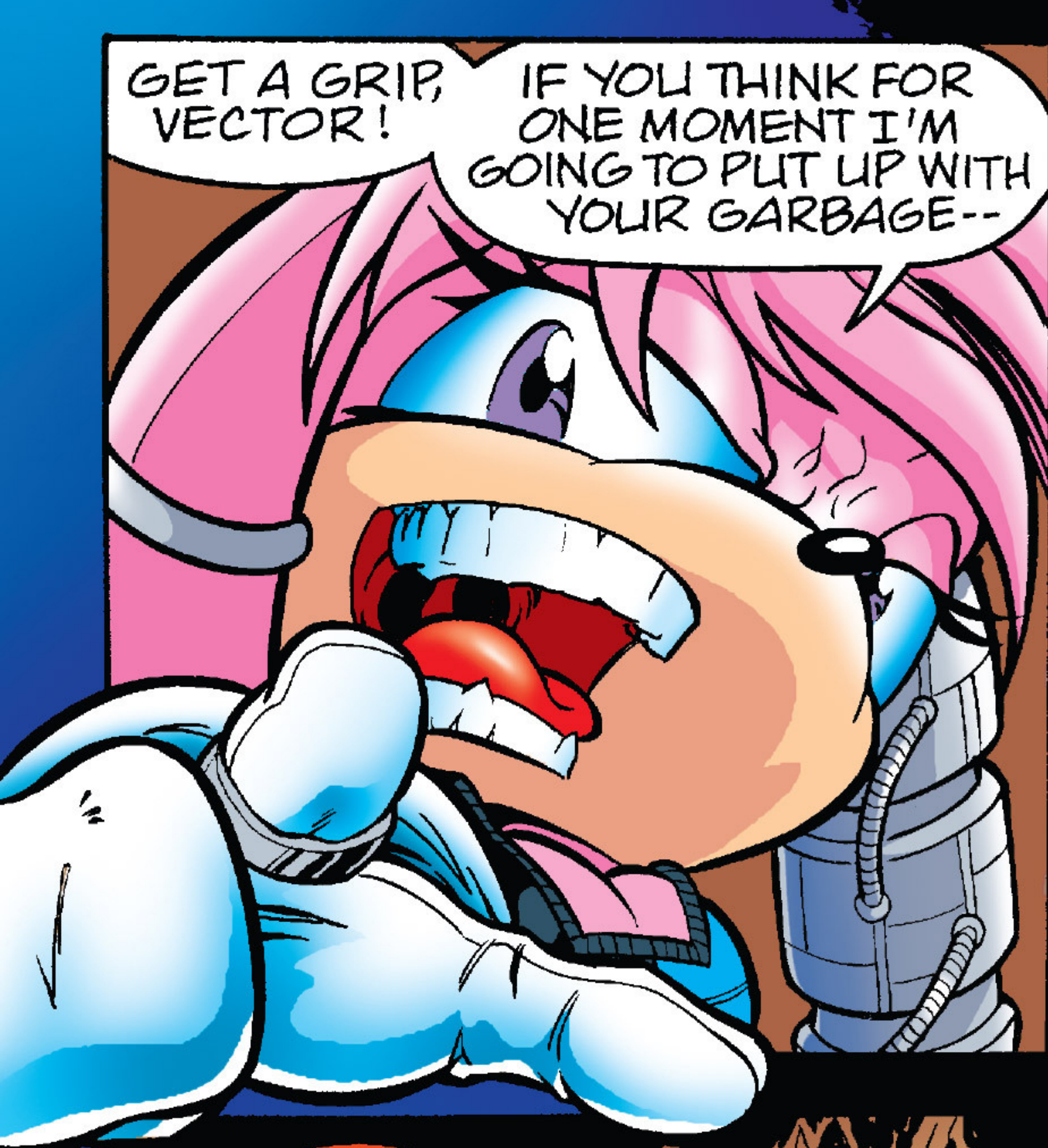
DURING THE NEXT YEAR, LARA-LE AND LOCKE WOULD BATTLE CONSTANTLY OVER YOU!

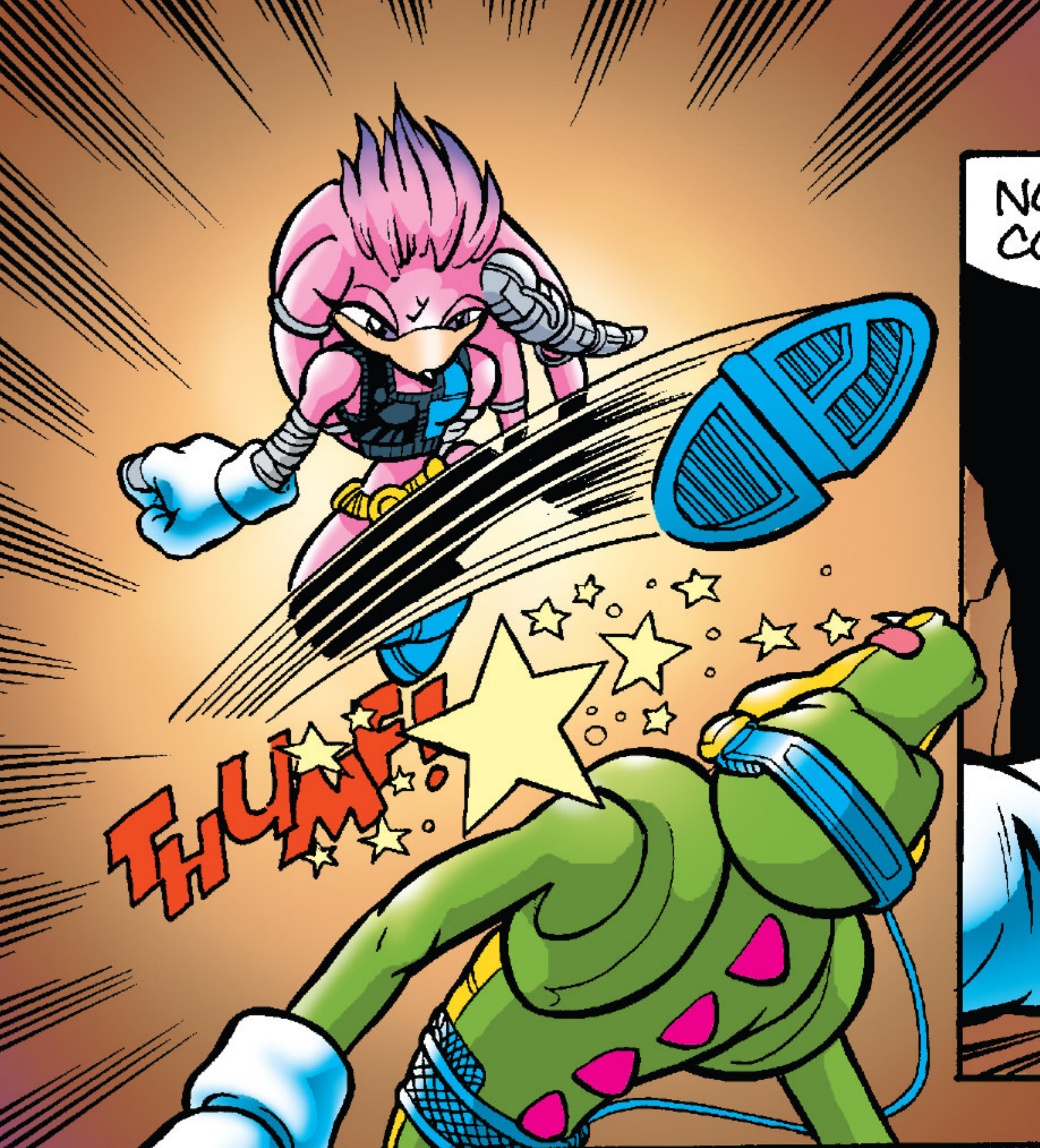
EVENTUALLY, YOUR MOTHER BOWED TO THE **INEVITABLE!**

AS SOON AS THE DIVORCE WAS **FINALIZED**, LOCKE RELOCATED BACK TO THE FLOATING ISLAND WITH YOU AT HIS SIDE!

SO, THEN WHAT?

BE HERE NEXT ISSUE TO FIND OUT!





NOW I'M COOL!

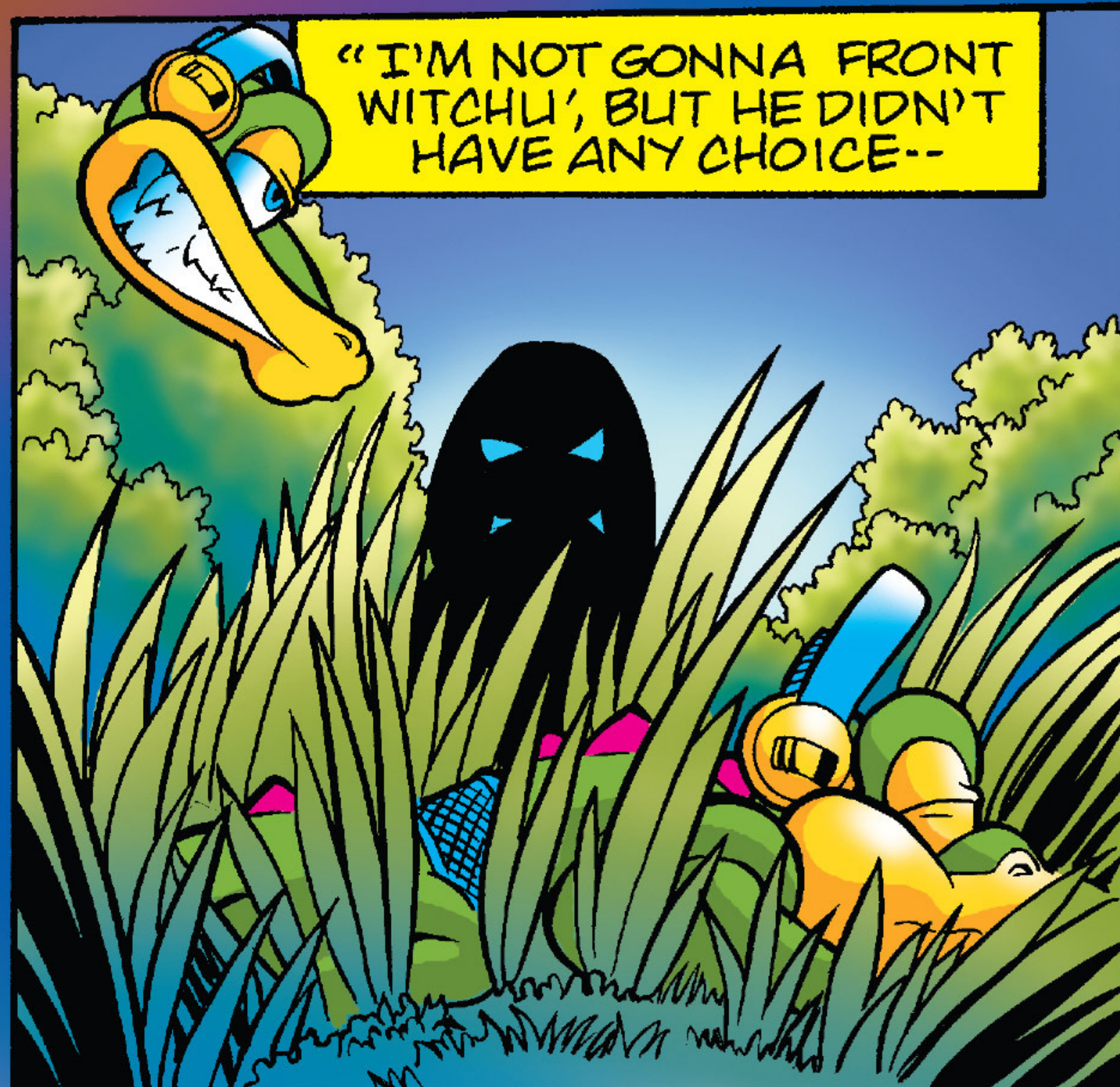
THAT ONE I'LL GIVE YOU--

--AND ONLY BECAUSE THE **KNUXMAN** WAS A **BUD**!



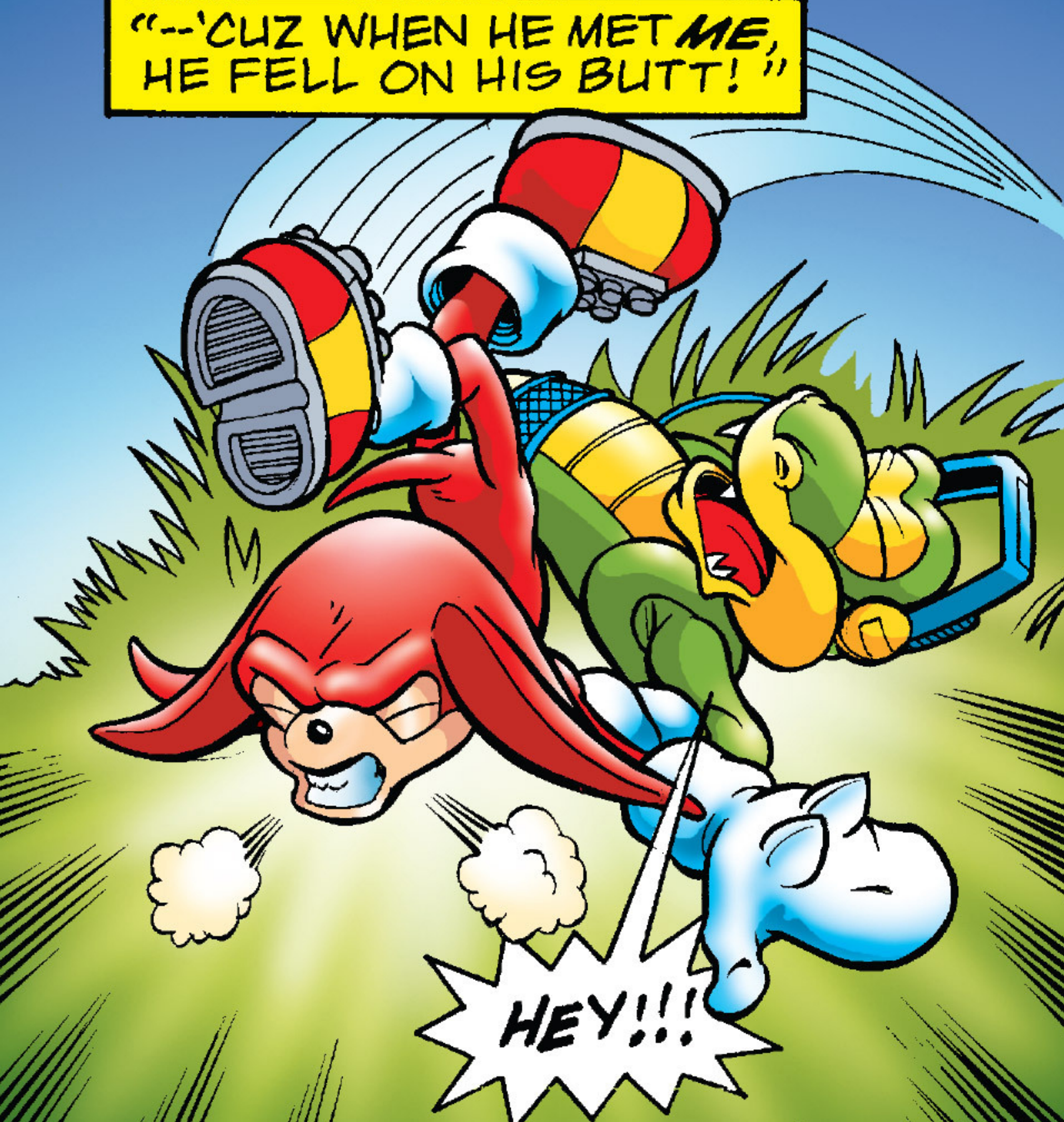
THO' WHAT HE SAW IN YA' I'LL NEVER KNOW!

I COULD SAY THE **SAME** ABOUT YOU!

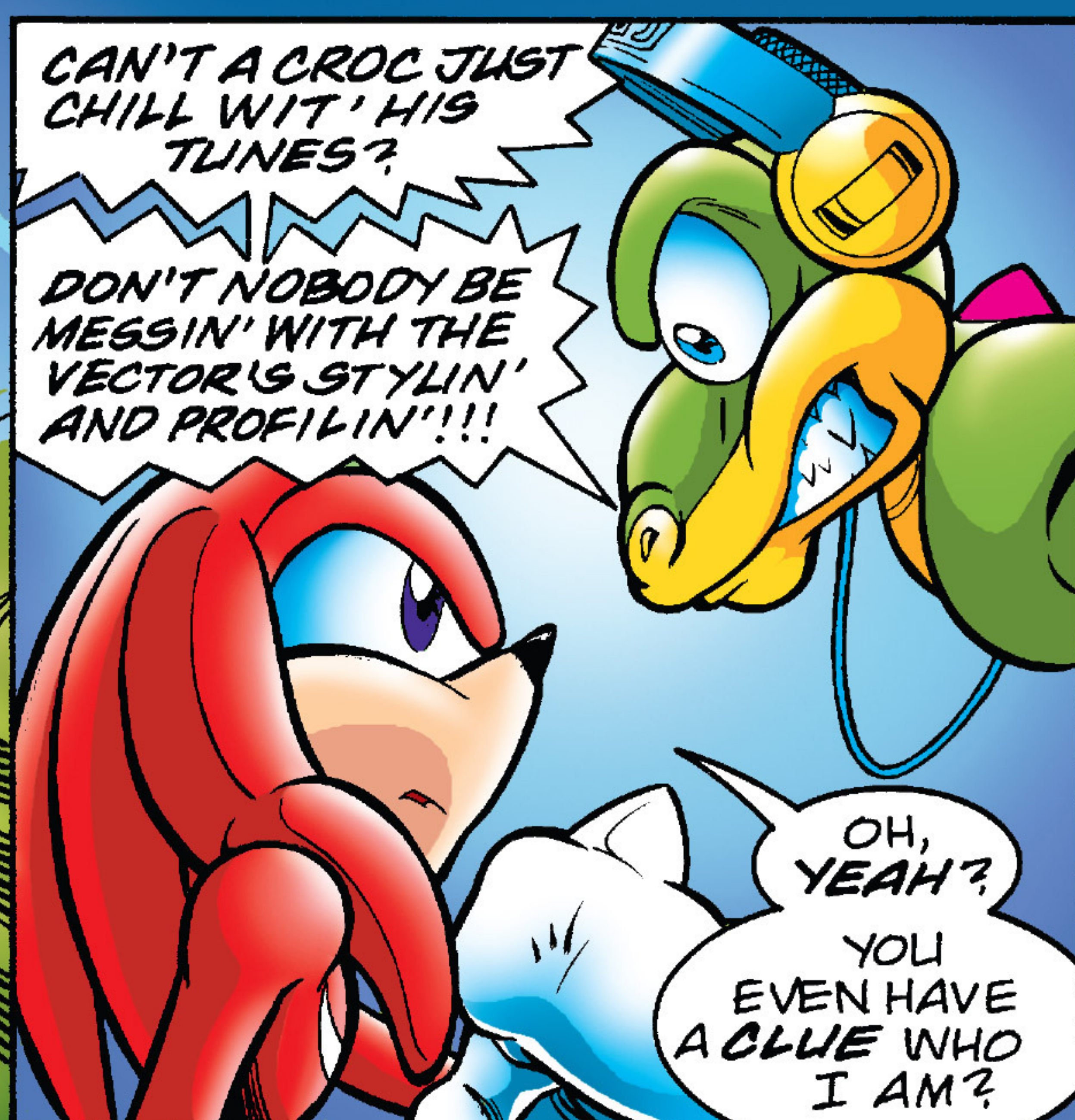


"I'M NOT GONNA FRONT WITCHU', BUT HE DIDN'T HAVE ANY CHOICE--"

"--'CUZ WHEN HE MET **ME**, HE FELL ON HIS BUTT!"



HEY!!!

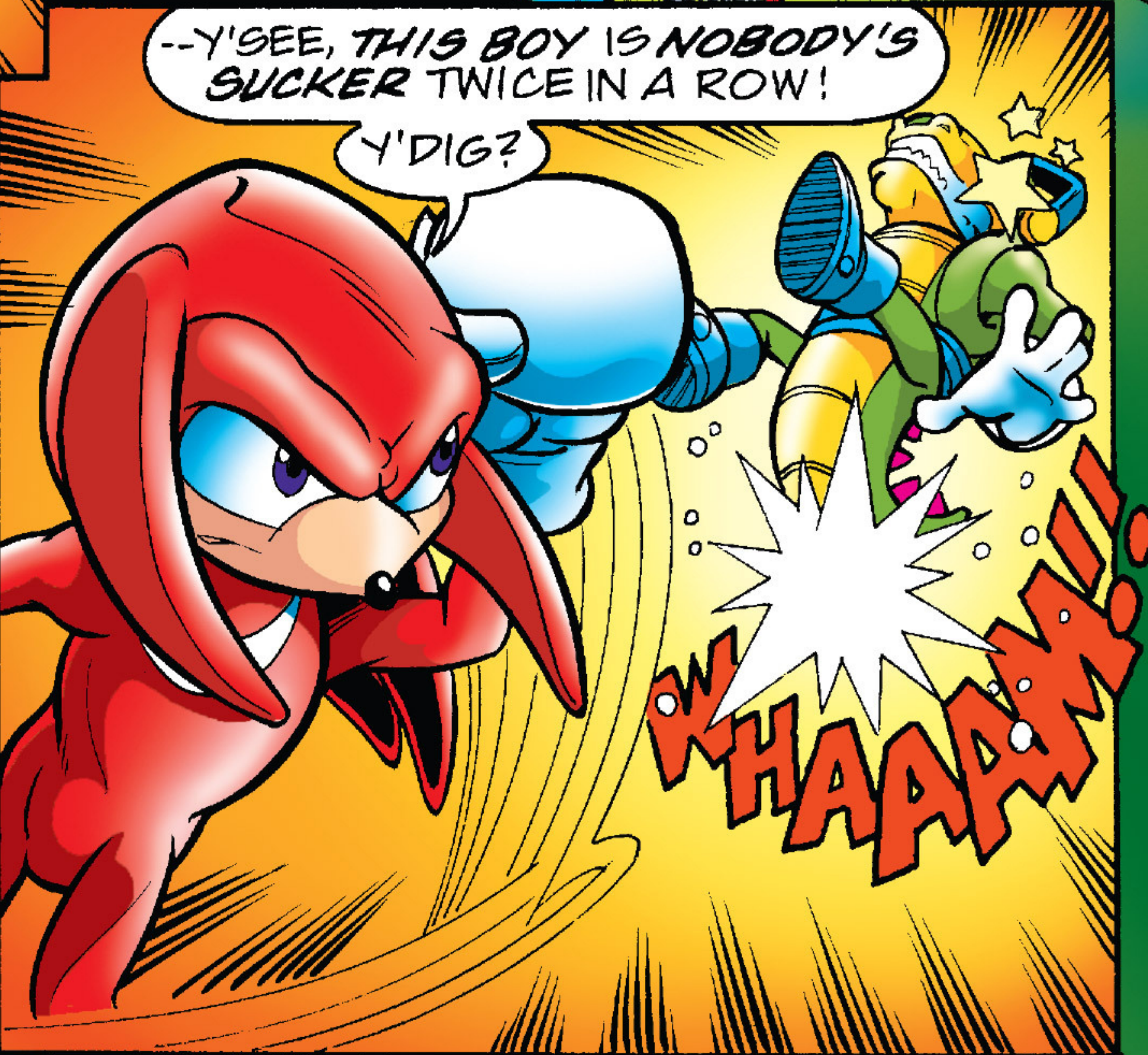
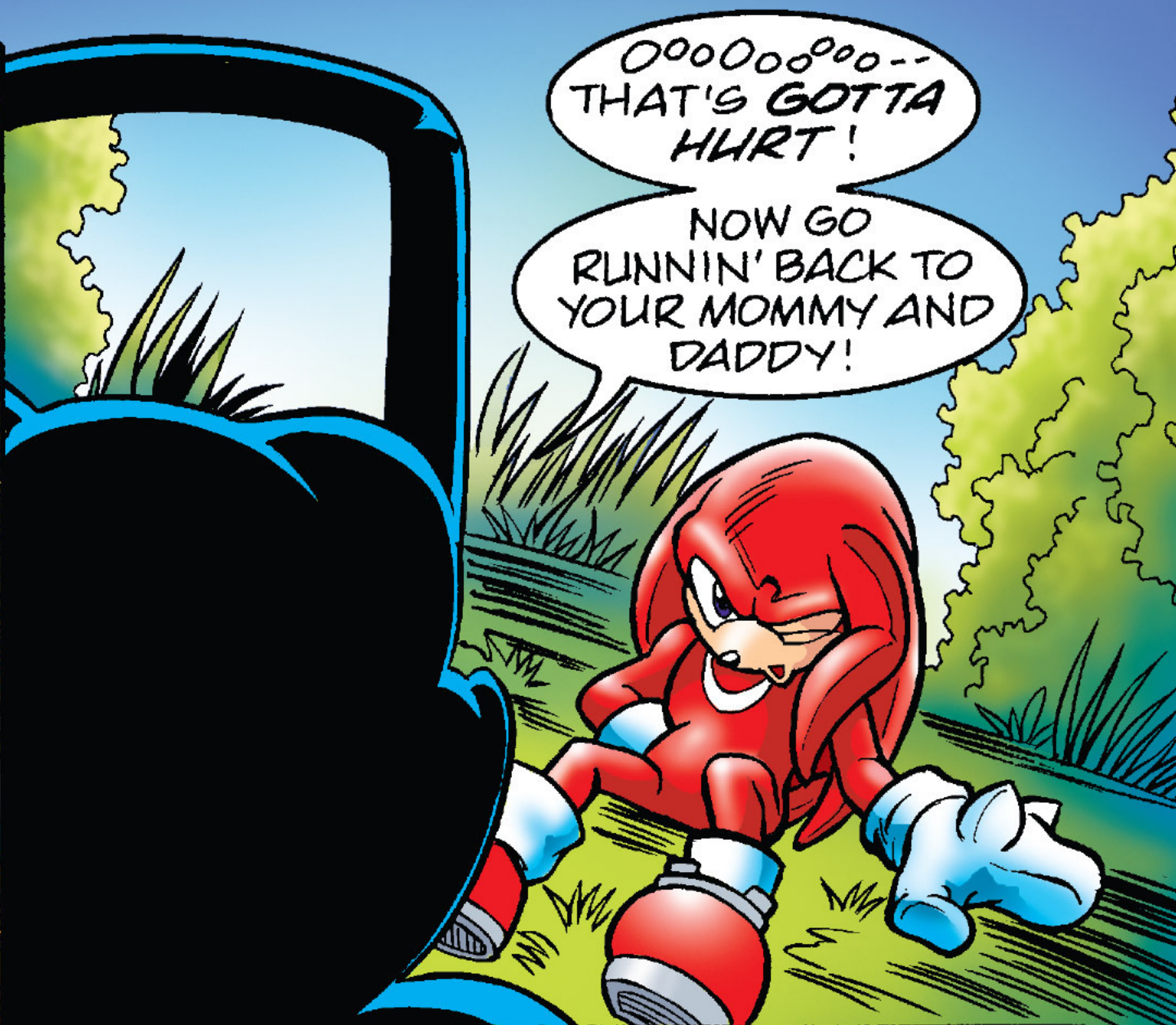
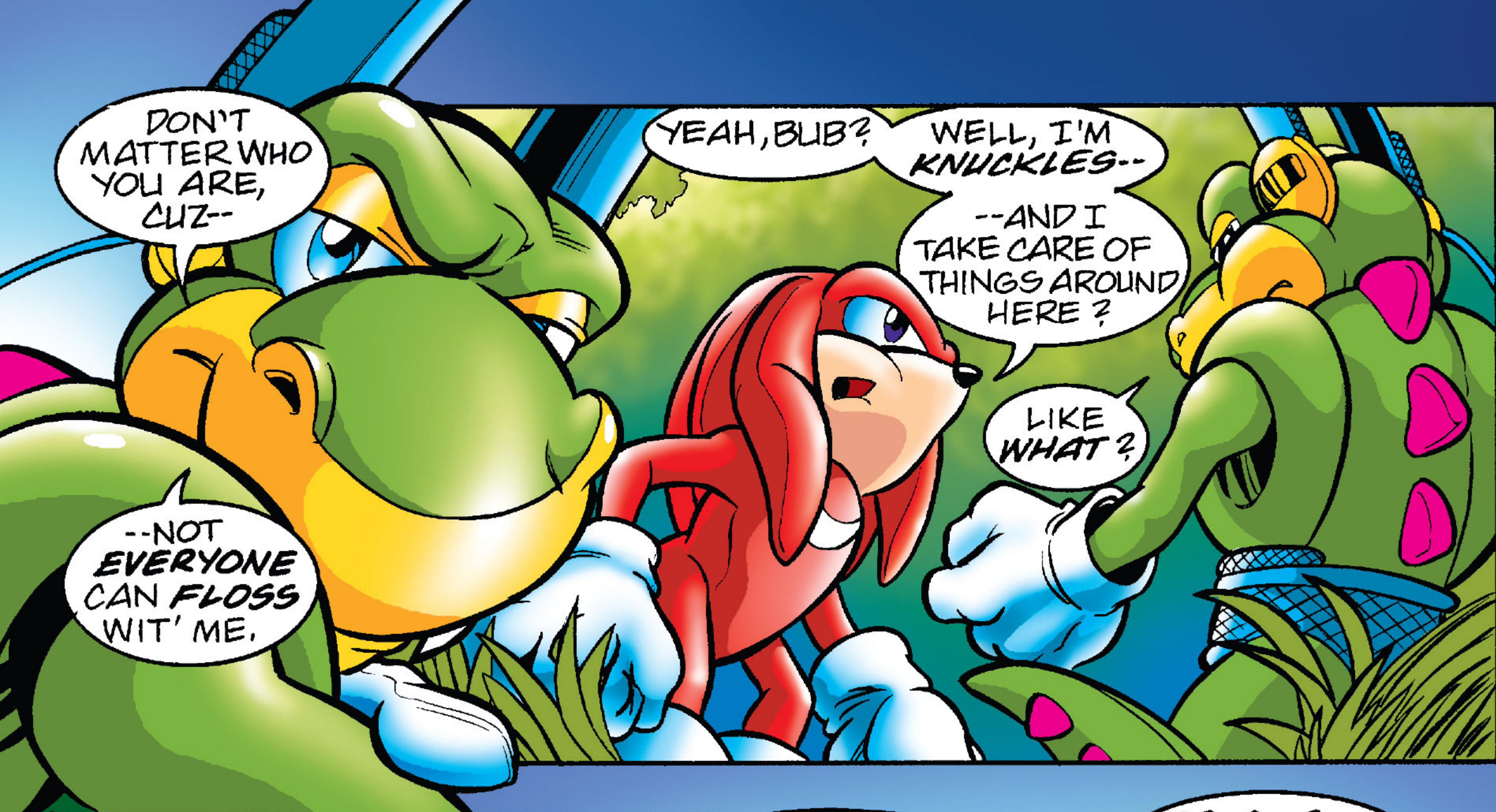


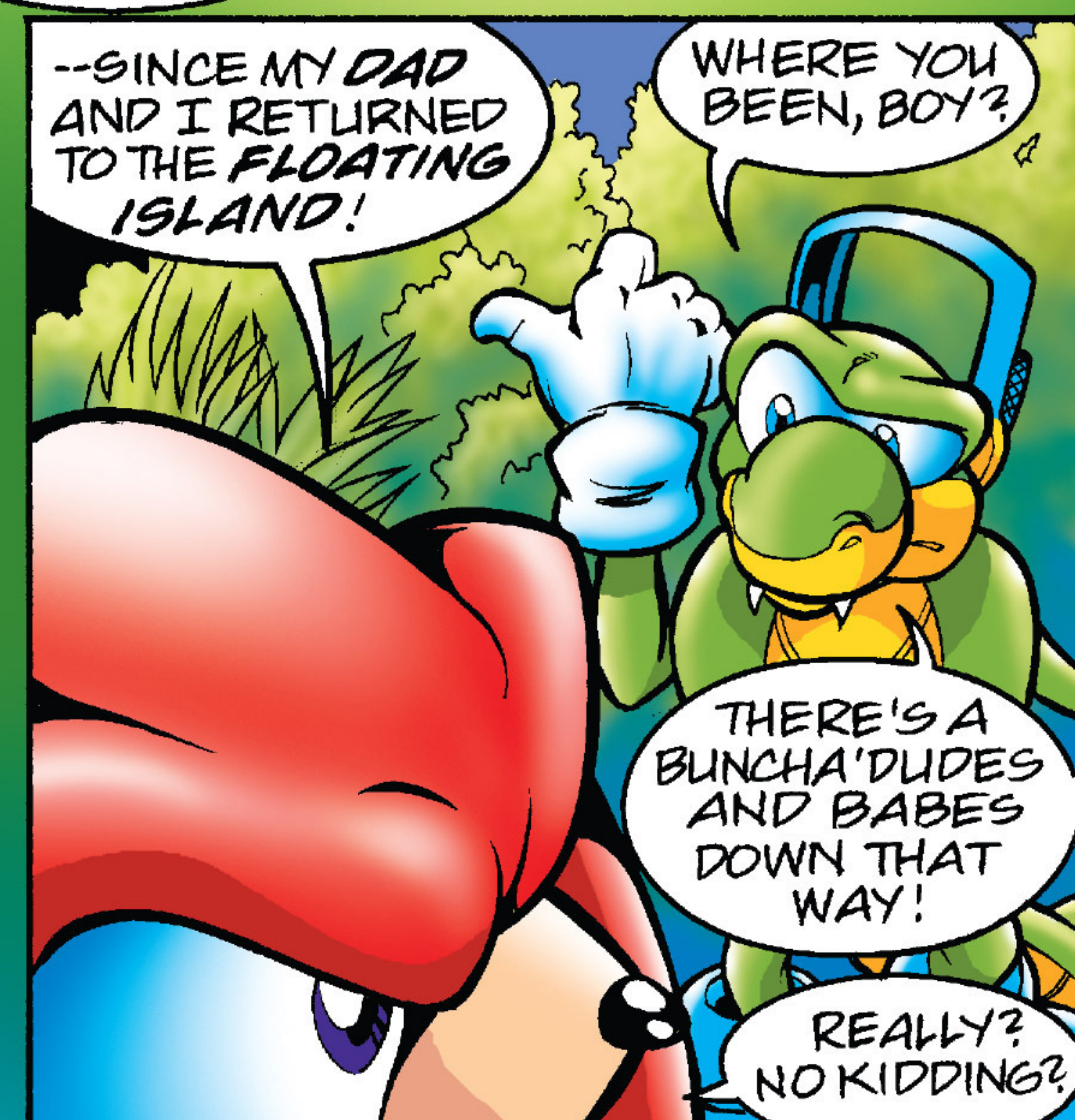
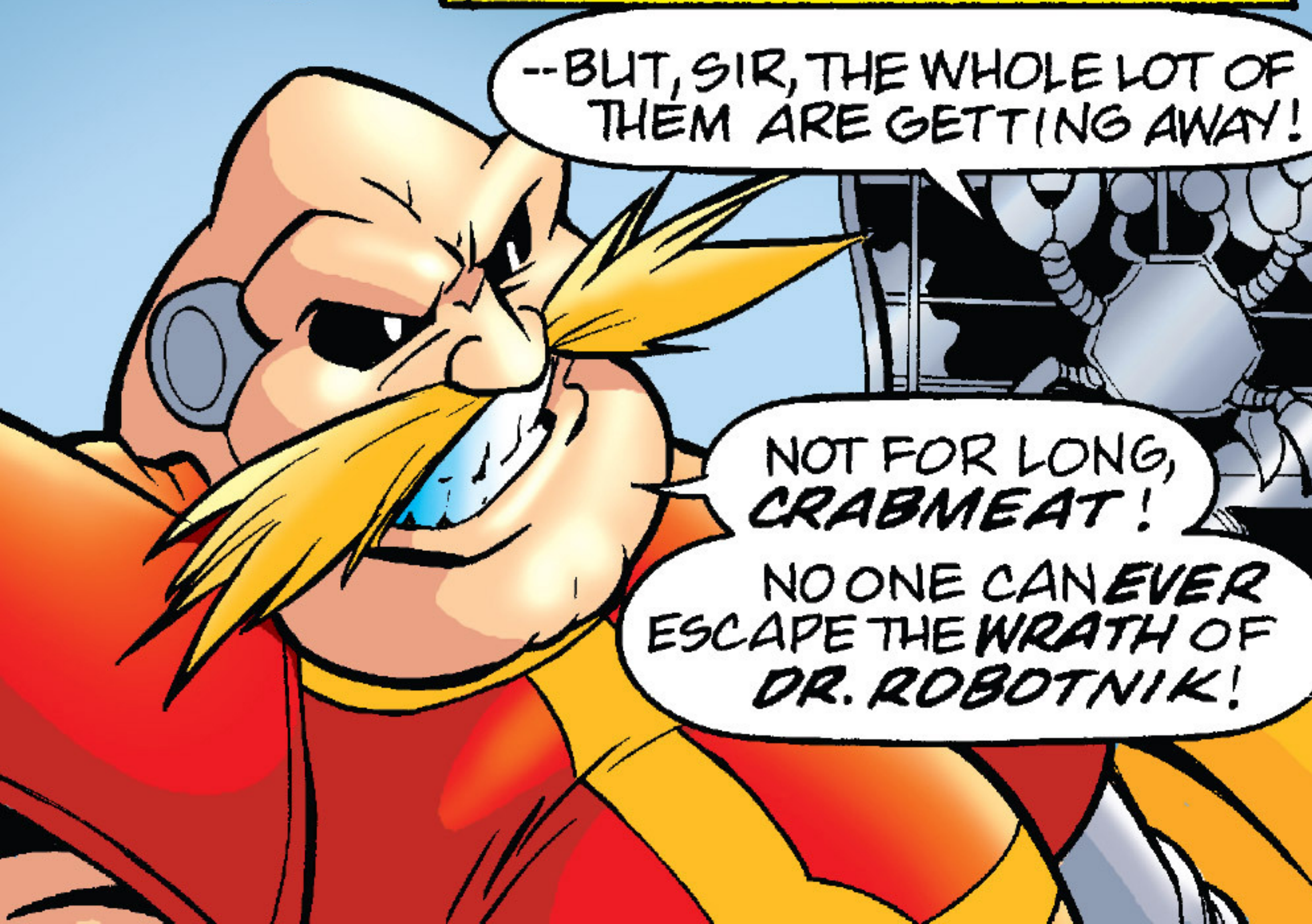
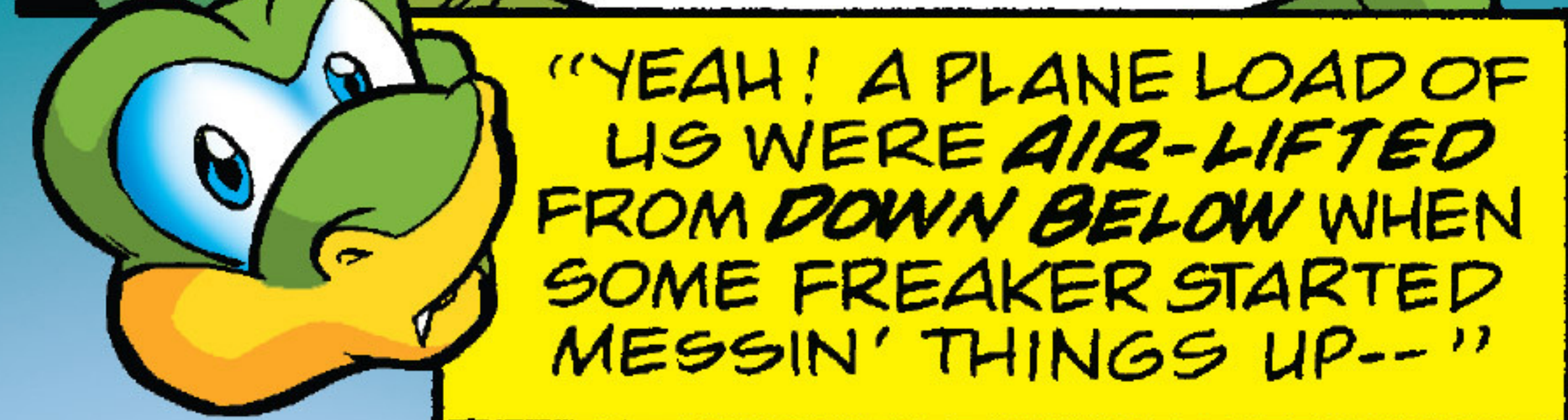
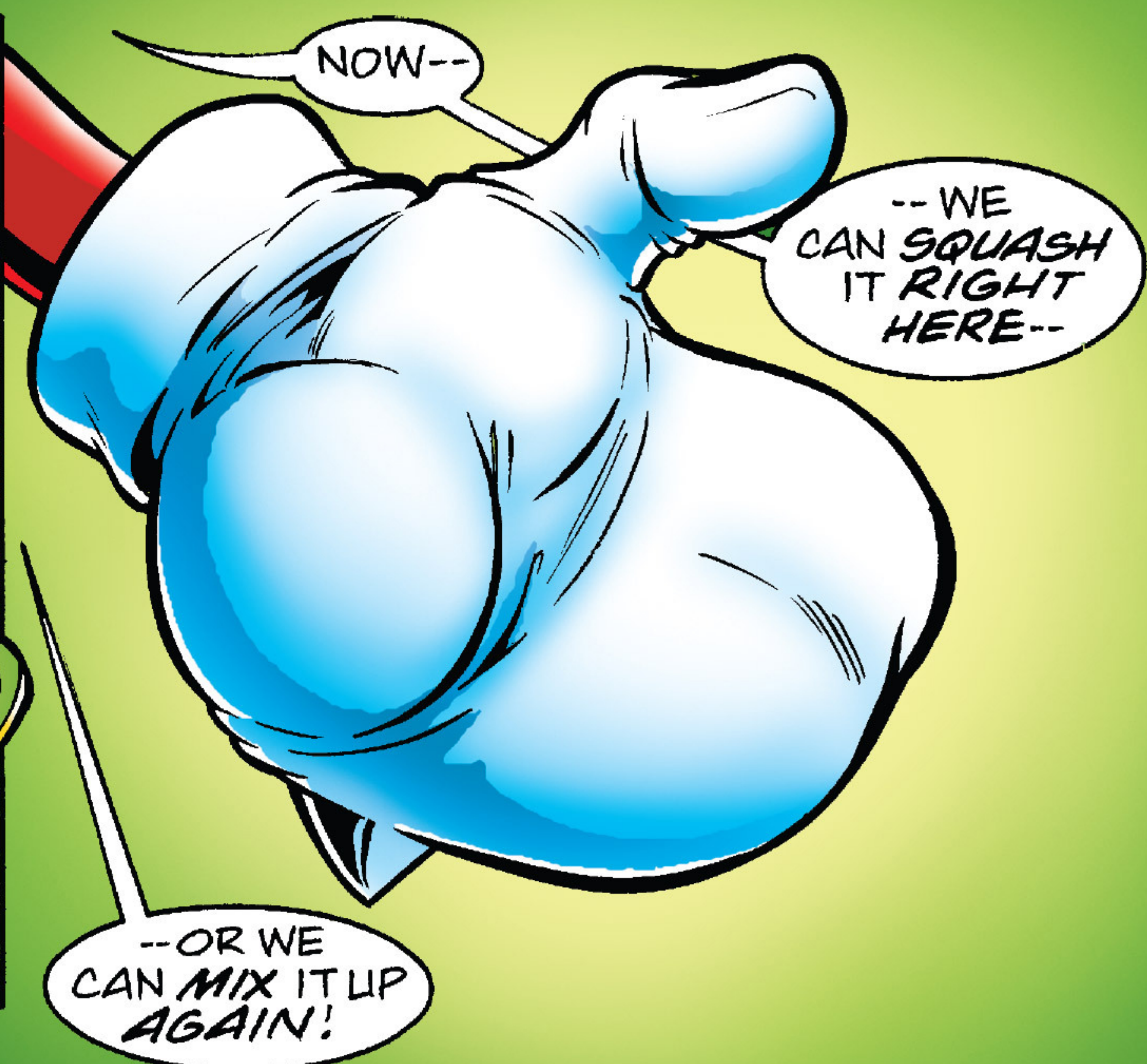
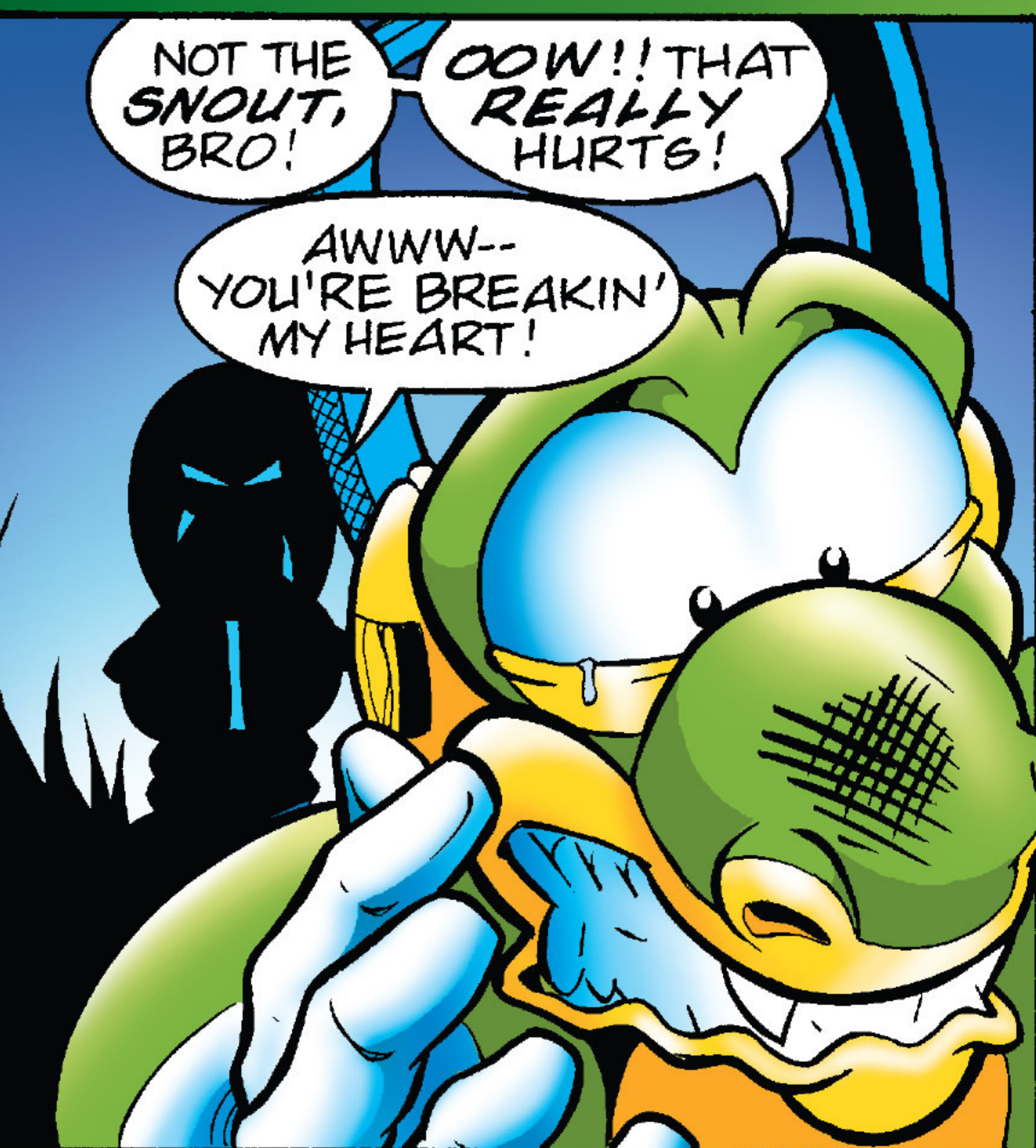
CAN'T A CROC JUST CHILL WIT' HIS TUNES?

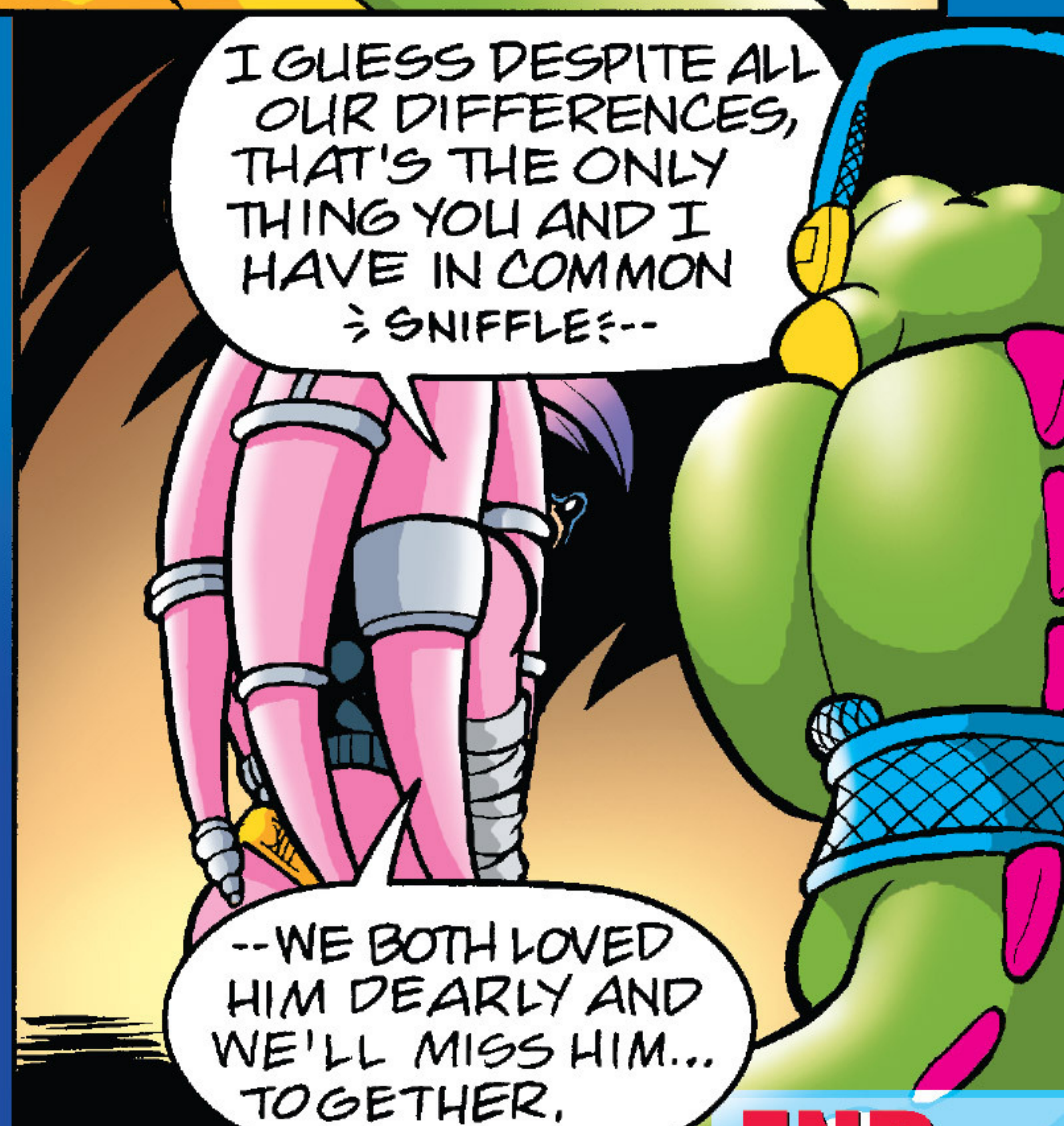
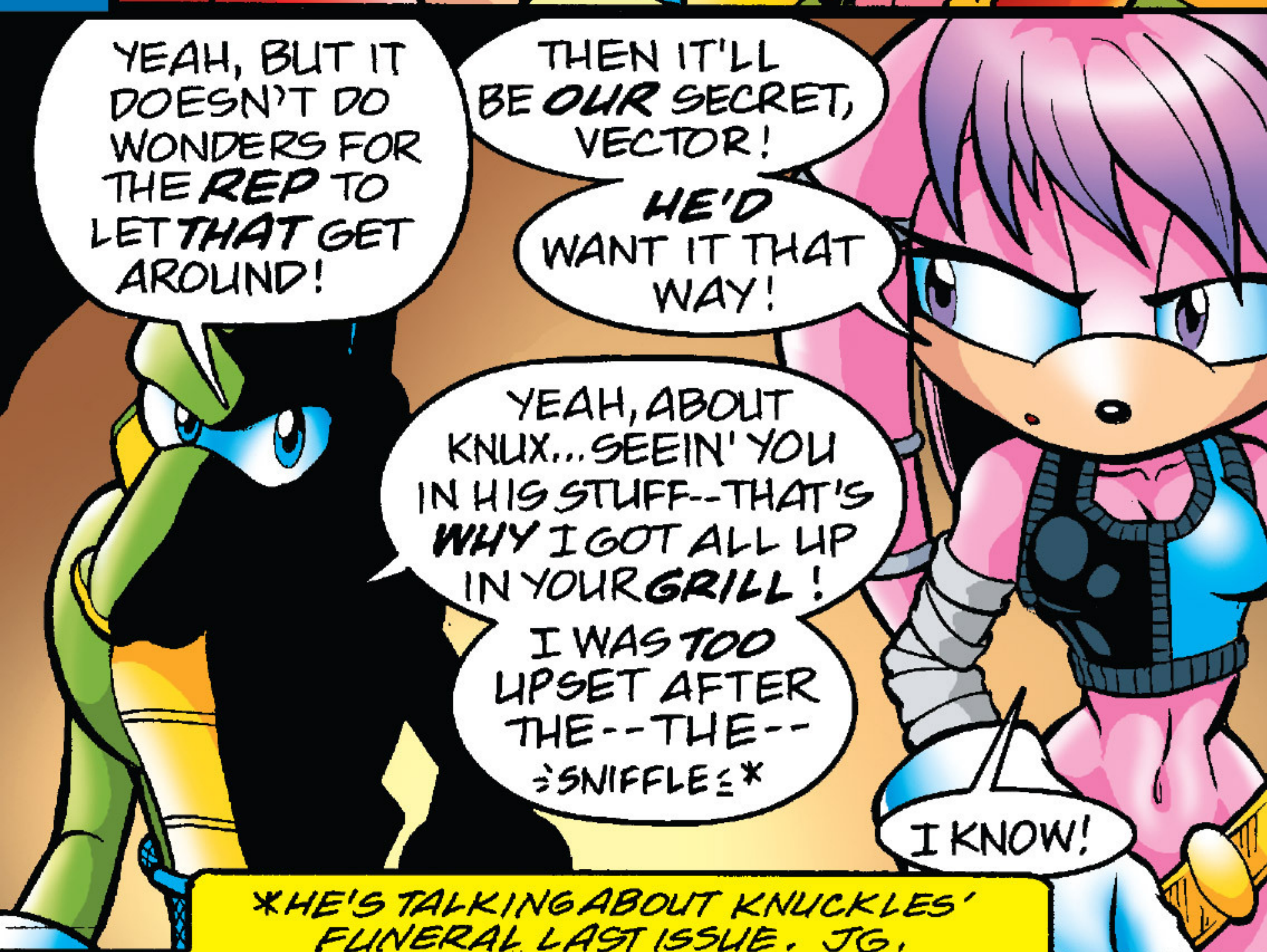
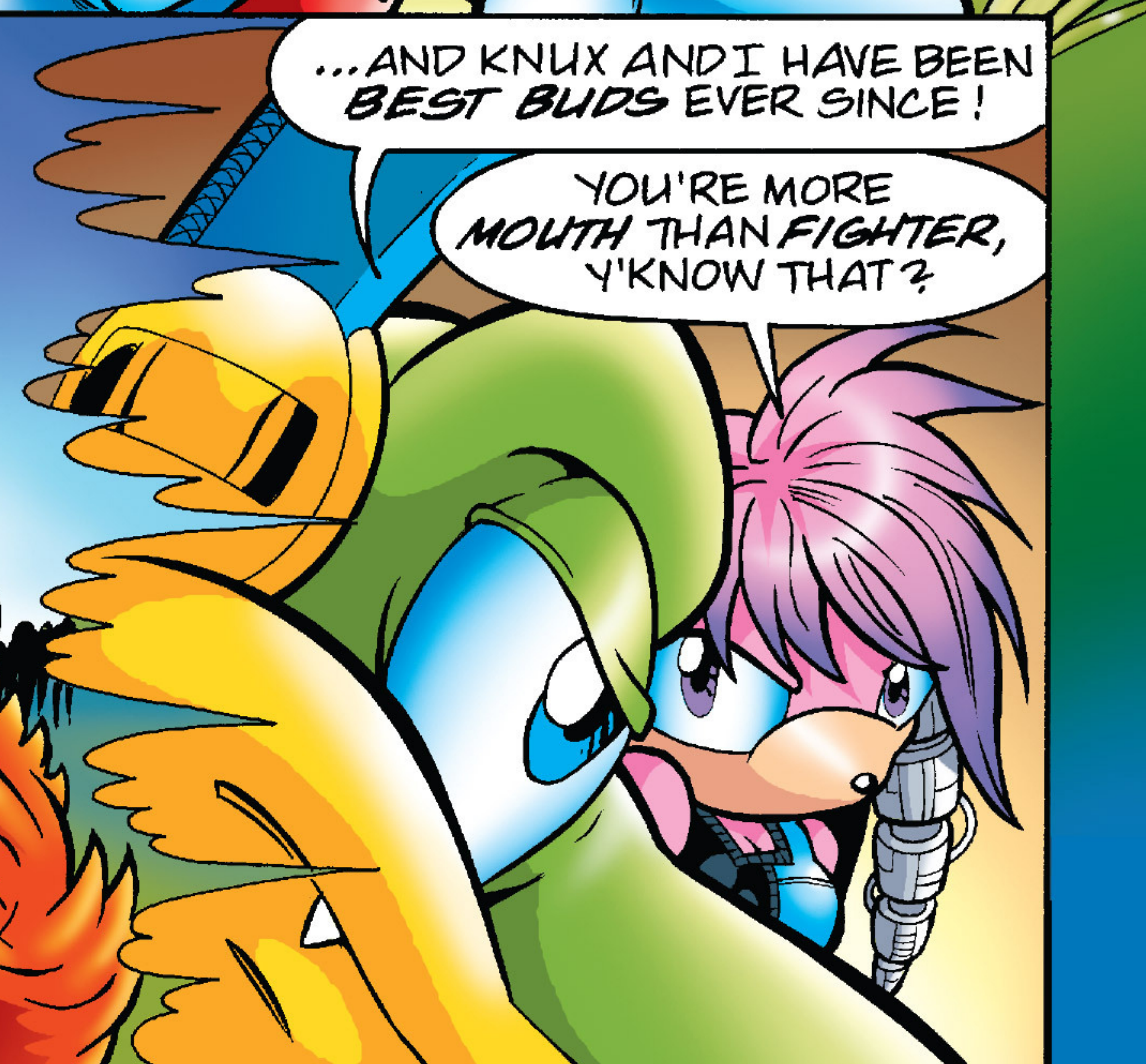
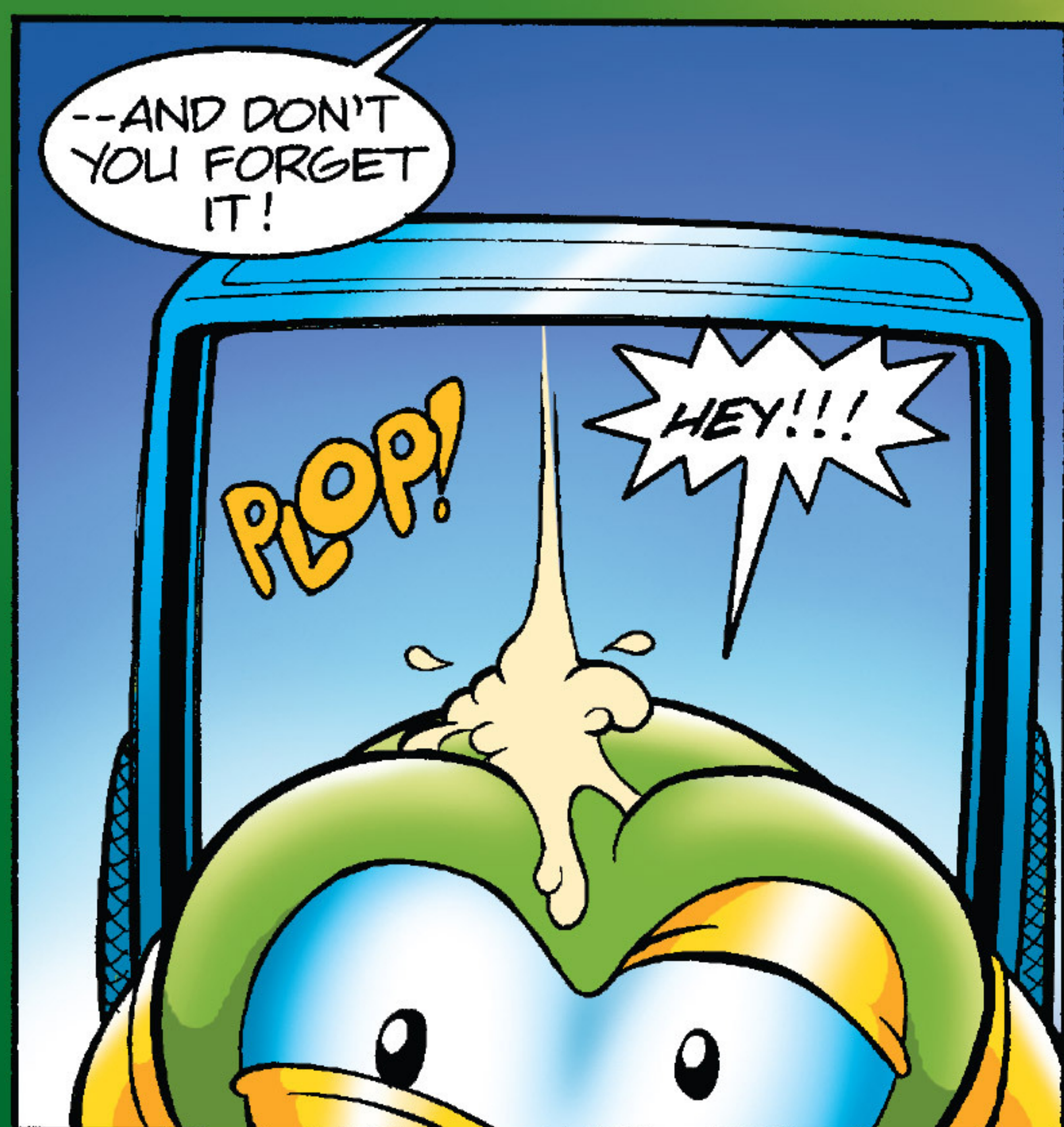
DON'T NOBODY BE MESSIN' WITH THE VECTOR'S STYLIN' AND PROFILIN'!!!

OH, YEAH?

YOU EVEN HAVE A **CLUE** WHO I AM?







END